

far south for most northern observatories and its easterly motion of nearly 6 minutes a day made conditions even more difficult on later dates, since the angular separation from the sun decreases. Very likely southern observers will have secured the necessary measures for determining an approximate orbit.

The four comets announced previously this year have been kept under observation at various observatories. COMET 1926 *f* (COMAS SOLÁ) was recorded photographically at the Yerkes Observatory until May 31 as a 14^M object which was lost afterwards in the evening sky. As previously remarked it is quite possible that further observations may be obtained later in the season after the object emerges from the vicinity of the sun.

COMET 1927 *c* (PONS-WINNECKE). Considerable interest has been shown in the appearance of this comet which has now passed out of sight for northern observers. It surpassed the expectations as far as visibility is concerned. Except for the interruption at the time of the full moon, all through June one could easily follow it with the unaided eye. It reached a total brightness of fully 4^M at the time of its nearest approach. During the latter part of the month its rapid



FIG. 1. Photograph of Pons-Winnecke Comet taken with 24-inch reflector of the Yerkes Observatory by Van Biesbroeck, July 27. Exposure 14^m.

motion across the constellations could be noticed after a short interval of time without the help of any instrument. It appeared then as a round hazy spot, about one degree in diameter, considerably brighter than the Andromeda nebula or the double cluster in Perseus. The nucleus however remained faint: in the telescope it appeared like a minute star of about 9th magnitude from which emanated, in the direction towards the sun, a narrow pencil of light gradually spreading in the shape of the calyx of a flower. This can be seen in Figure 1, although the central part has been overexposed in an effort to record the whole extent of the coma. The dissymmetrical distribution of the light in the latter is quite marked but no trace of a tail extending beyond the coma could be detected at any time. In spite