

## Comet Notes

By G. VAN BIESBROECK

COMET PELTIER (1936 *a*). The first new comet of the year has just been announced. It was found by Leslie C. Peltier of Delphos, Ohio. This enthusiastic variable-star observer is at the same time a most industrious comet hunter. This is the fifth new comet found by Mr. Peltier. In the morning of May 15 he modestly wired to the writer, "Verify extremely slow motion ninth magnitude comet,  $23^{\text{h}} 59^{\text{m}}$ ,  $+74^{\circ}$ ." I knew at once that this would prove a genuine discovery. Peltier knows the sky and recognizes unexpected visitors, but in this case the discovery was especially difficult. The object moved so slowly that there apparently remained a shadow of doubt lest there was perhaps confusion with some long-known nebulous object.

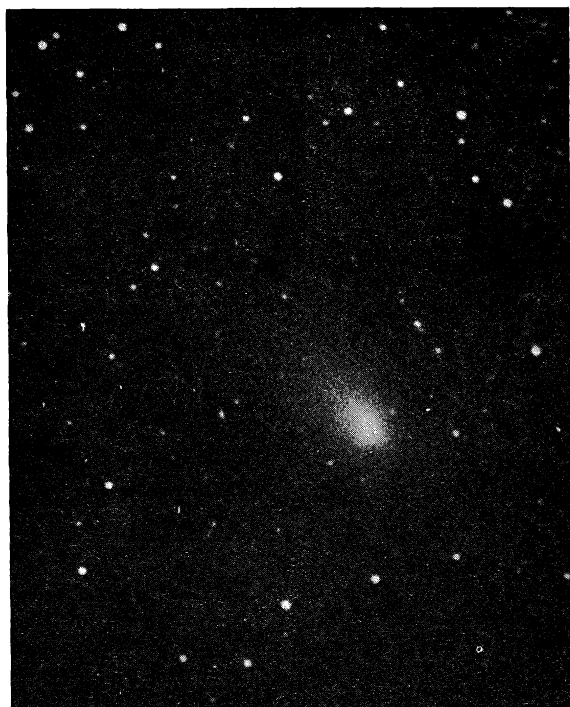


FIGURE 1

COMET PELTIER (1936 *a*).

Enlarged four times from a twenty-minute exposure  
with 24-inch reflector of the Yerkes Observatory.

Since the sky was clear that evening, I had no difficulty in picking up the new-comer and determining its exact position with the 40-inch refractor:

1936 May 16.16758 U.T.  $23^{\text{h}} 51^{\text{m}} 59^{\text{s}}.23$ ,  $+73^{\circ} 26' 53''.3$ . Magnitude 9.

Daily motion, in right ascension  $+91^{\circ}$ , in declination  $-5' 50''$ .

The result was transmitted at once to the central bureau of cometary information at Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where the ob-