

Schreiben von Dr. B. A. Gould, Director der Sternwarte in Cordoba, an den Herausgeber.

It now appears as though it might be possible to finish my astronomical work, here in Cordoba, by the end of January, or very soon after that date. The General Catalogue* is now so far advanced, that six weeks ought to leave nothing to be done except the copying in form for the press. And, notwithstanding many previous disappointments, I am indulging the hope that the coming year may see it published. It contains about 43000 positions of not far from 35000 southern stars; and completes the work for the prosecution of which I came to this country in 1870.

Will you kindly mention in the Astr. Nachr., that my address henceforth will again be in the United States; and, for the present, at Wollaston, Massachusetts. The agent of the Smithsonian Institution in London, Mr. William Wesley, (28 Essex St., Strand) will receive any books or communications intended for me.

Before this time the Cordoba Zone-Catalogue must have been in the hands of European astronomers. I had entertained the extravagant hope that it might be free from numerical errors, — and it is my conviction that those of a typographical character are few. But since its distribution, the progress of the scrutiny of the General Catalogue has disclosed a considerable number of errors of reduction and transcription in it. In the course of a few weeks, when the comparison of the two Catalogues is finished, I purpose sending you a full list of the errors found, — as well as a few additional ones detected in the Uranometria Argentina.

In the Introduction to the Zone-Catalogue, page XV, is given a list of stars which were not visible at the date Cordoba 1884 Dec. 18.

of the revision. It is probably needless to mention that these were looked for on several nights, and by different observers, — so that the fact of their invisibility is beyond question. During the printing of the second volume, one of the stars originally in the list was observed and its variable character established, so that it was designated as R Indi.

Since then, three others have been similarly found, and their variability made certain. It is, of course, out of my power at present to ascertain the epochs, periods, or limits of their variations; but these, as well as the forms of their curves, will doubtless be soon determined by others.

The first of these variables is No. 3188 of the Hour XV, and should hereafter be known as R Lupi. It was of the 9th magnitude 1875 June 16; invisible in the meridian-circle, (which signifies below the 11th magnitude,) on several nights between 1883 May 23 and June 4; but again observed 1884 July 24, 28, Aug. 13.

The second, Hour XXII No. 342, was observed by me as 9^m, 1872 Oct. 18; it was vainly looked for with the meridian-circle during the period 1883 June 8-20; but was estimated by Mr. Davis as 8½^m, on the nights of 1884 Oct. 29 and 30. For this I propose the name R Piscis Austrini, inasmuch as the variability of the star U. A. 29 has not yet been fully established. (I may mention that this latter star was estimated last evening by Dr. Thome as 5^m7.)

The third, R Phoenicis, I estimated as 8½^m in the zone observed 1872 Nov. 23. It was invisible during the revision of the region in November 1882, although frequently looked for; but it appeared as 9^m to 9½^m, 1884 Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. It is No. 1353 of the Hour XXIII.

B. A. Gould.

Proper motion of W₁ 23^h821.

From two meridian observations I find the following position of the star W₁ 23^h821 = Rümker 11582 for 1884.0:

$$23^{\text{h}}41^{\text{m}}54^{\text{s}}86 \quad -5^{\circ}53'1''0 \quad \text{Ep. 1884.976}$$

Comparing this with the older observations this star appears to have a proper motion of $-0^{\circ}010$ and $-0''19$. The residual differences with Bessel are $0^{\circ}02$ and $0''1$, with Rümker $0^{\circ}02$ and $0''2$.

Dudley Observatory 1884 Dec. 29.

H. V. Egbert.

Verkaufs-Anzeige.

Die Sternwarte des hydrographischen Amtes der k. k. Kriegs-Marine in Pola wünscht ein von Carl Fritsch in Wien stammendes Brachyteleskop, dessen grosser Spiegel 12 Zoll im Durchmesser hat, sammt der parallaktischen Montirung und dem Triebwerke zu verkaufen. Eine Beschreibung des Instrumentes findet sich in »Konkoly's Anleitung zu astronomischen Beobachtungen«.

Das Instrument war zur Beobachtung des Venusdurchganges 1882 angeschafft und liegt sonst für dasselbe hier keine Verwendung vor, da es an entsprechenden Arbeitskräften fehlt, zudem auch die bezügliche Kuppel dem Instrumente zu wenig Raum bietet und an einen Umbau der Kuppel aus anderen Gründen nicht zu denken ist.

Anfragen wollen an die »Sternwarte Pola« gerichtet werden.

Inhalt zu Nr. 2644. C. Schrader, Beobachtungen von Vergleichsternen am Meridiankreise der Hamburger Sternwarte, 49. — Beobachtungen des Encke'schen Cometen (1885. . .) auf den Sternwarten in Genf und Lund, 57. — Beobachtungen des Cometen 1884 Wolf auf den Sternwarten in Königsberg, Taschkent und Lund, 59. — B. A. Gould, Schreiben an den Herausgeber, 63. — H. V. Egbert, Proper motion of W₁ 23^h821, 63. — Verkaufs-Anzeige, 63.