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W. H. Finlay B.A., F.R.A.S.

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APPROXIMATE ELLIPTIC ELEMENTS OF COMET, 1884*b*.

By W. H. FINLAY, B.A., F.R.A.S.

It was soon found by myself and astronomers in Europe that a parabolic orbit would not satisfy the observations of this comet. I determined therefore to try and deduce an elliptic orbit. As my own observations were the only ones available at the time I did not attempt more than a fairly close approximation, and for that purpose chose the observations of July 27, August 22, and September 17: the observations on these nights were noted as "good," and they were nearly equidistant. From them I derived the following elements:—

	d.	
Perihelion passage	.. Aug. 16.5095	Greenwich mean time.
π	.. 306 3 30	} Mean Equinox and Ecliptic 1884.0
A	.. 4 54 1	
ι	.. 5 30 36	
log. a	.. 0.5017524	
log. μ	.. 2.7973780	
ρ	.. 36° 34' 31"	
Period	.. 5.6615 years.	

The comet, therefore, belongs to the class of short-period comets, of which we have about a dozen instances. At its nearest approach to the sun it is about midway between the orbits of the earth and Mars, and at its furthest distance it almost reaches the orbit of Jupiter. Like others of its class it has probably been diverted from its original path in space by the attraction of Jupiter, and forced to become a member of the solar system. The elements, with the exception of the Node, show a strong resemblance to de Vico's comet of 1844, for which a period of $5\frac{1}{2}$ years was found, but which has never been seen since.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

By JOHN G. GAMBLE, M.A.

[Read 1884, Dec. 4.]

I. THE MONTHLY AVERAGES OF THE DAILY READINGS OF THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM THERMOMETERS.

Nearly four years ago I read a paper before this Society on summer and winter temperature in South Africa. Since then the observations have improved both in quantity and quality, the latter being mainly owing to the annual inspection by the Secretary.

I have now calculated the monthly averages of the daily readings of the maximum and minimum thermometers. These tables have been printed in the Colonial Blue Book [and therefore are not again reprinted here.] In order, however, to make the statistics more interesting and useful, I have prepared twelve maps giving the maximum and minimum isothermals for each month in the year, and forty-two diagrams showing the annual march of maximum and minimum temperature at each of the twenty-one selected stations. I do not ask the