Comparison of the observations with the ephemerides (O—C).

Date	$\Delta\alpha$	$\Delta\delta$	Ephemerides
1883	(2) Pallas.		
Oct. 8	— 1.32	+ 2.5	Berl. Jahrb. 1885
Nov. 2	— 1.74	+ 6.7	» »
1883	(13) Egeria.		
Oct. 30	+ 0.53	+ 23.1	» »
31	+ 0.33	+ 13.0	» »
31	+ 0.54	—	» »
Nov. 2	+ 0.69	+ 15.0	» »
2	+ 0.49	—	» »
1883	(19) Fortuna.		
Nov. 27	+ 20.19	+ 37.0	» »
Dec. 10	+ 22.33	+ 108.0	» »

Date	$\Delta\alpha$	$\Delta\delta$	Ephemerides
1883	(1) Ceres.		
Dec. 10	+ 0.43	— 1.9	Berl. Jahrb. 1885
1883	(8) Flora.		
Dec. 10	+ 12.48	+ 29.9	» »
10	+ 12.32	—	» »
1884	(154) Bertha.		
May 28	+ 2.19	+ 2.6	Berl. Jahrb. 1886
1884	(41) Daphne.		
May 28	— 18.38	+ 34.1	» »
29	— 17.93	+ 32.7	» »

The observations were made with a filar-micrometer and a magnifying power of 90. The corrections for refraction, parallax, and aberration were applied before the comparison with the ephemerides.

Mt. Lookout, 1885 March 6.

H. C. Wilson, Assistant Astronomer.

On the variability of β Corvi.

The constancy of light of one or more of the four bright stars (γ β δ ϵ) situated in the constellation Corvus has long been suspected on account of the discordance in the various estimations of their apparent order of brilliancy. Dr. Gould at Albany in 1858, and again at Cordoba in 1871, 1872 and 1874, made a special study of this group, and announced (*Uranometria Argentina*, page 315) that he considered all four of the stars variable within moderate limits. I have carefully observed these stars during 1882,

1883 and 1884, and find that β is certainly variable by nearly one magnitude, but that the other stars appear to be sensibly constant; and I believe that the whole difficulty which has arisen in regard to this group is solved by this explanation. It seems desirable to give the evidence on which this conclusion is founded, and I therefore append the original sequences observed. The stars were observed with an opera-glass, out of focus. An * denotes moon-light.

1882 April 12	γ 4 β 3-4 δ 3 ϵ
» 15	γ 3-4 β 3-4 δ 3 ϵ
» 17	γ 4 δ 2 β 4 ϵ
June 6	γ 3 δ 3 β 4-5 ϵ :
» 9	γ 4 β 2 δ 4 ϵ
1883 March 3	γ 4 β 3 δ 5 ϵ
» 16	γ 4 β 4 δ 5 ϵ *
» 28	γ 4 β 4 δ 5 ϵ
April 1	γ 4 β 2 δ 4 ϵ
» 10	γ 5 β 3 δ 4 ϵ
» 15	γ 5 β 4 δ 5 ϵ
» 29	γ 5 β 3 δ 4 ϵ
1884 March 1	γ 5 δ 3 β 4 ϵ
» 2	γ 5 δ 5 + ϵ 1-2 β :*

1884 March 3	γ 4-5 δ 5 β = ϵ *
» 4	γ 5 δ 5 + β 2 ϵ *
» 15	γ 5 δ 5 β = ϵ :
» 16	γ 4-5 δ 3-4 β 3-4 ϵ
» 18	γ 4 δ 3 β 4-5 ϵ
» 22	γ 4-5 δ 3 β 4-5 ϵ
» 25	γ 4-5 δ 3-4 β 5 ϵ
» 31	γ 5 δ 3-4 β 4 ϵ *
April 1	γ 5 δ 3 β 4-5 ϵ *
» 13	γ 5 δ 3 β 5 ϵ
» 22	γ 5 δ 4 β 5 ϵ
» 23	γ 5 δ 3-4 β 5 ϵ
» 26	γ 5 δ 3 β 5 ϵ
» 30	γ 5 δ 2 β 5 ϵ *

1884 May 12	γ 5 δ 2 β 5 ϵ
» 14	γ 4 δ 3 β 5 ϵ
» 16	γ 5 δ 1 β 5 + ϵ
» 25	γ 4 β 3 δ 5 + ϵ
» 26	γ 5 β 3 δ 5 + ϵ :
» 29	γ 5 β 3 δ 5 + ϵ *
» 30	γ 5 β 3 δ 5 + ϵ *
June 8	γ 5 + β 1 δ 5 + ϵ *
» 9	γ 5 + β 1 δ 5 + ϵ *
» 14	γ 4-5 δ 2 β 5 + ϵ :
» 17	γ 4 δ 3 β 4 ϵ
» 18	γ 4-5 δ 3 β 4-5 ϵ :
» 20	γ 4 δ 3 β 4 ϵ :
» 26	γ 4 δ 3 β 5 ϵ :

The variation appears to be irregular.

I trust other variable star observers will give some attention to this interesting group.

Cambridgeport, Mass., 1885 Febr. 15.

Edwin F. Sawyer.

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