48m. 28s.; right ascension, $256^{\circ} 51' 34''.5$; south declination, $4^{\circ} 8' 27''.8$. A comparison, made about three hours later, shows that the right ascension is daily diminishing by about 12 minutes and the southern declination, increasing about 6 minutes. The star is about the ninth degree of magnitude, and probably belongs to the smaller planets.

(Signed) ENCKE."

In the next number of the *Mail*, we find the following elements of the new planet.

SIR:—I forward to you the elements of the new planet, based upon the Berlin observation of July 5, and two accurate micrometrical observations, made here on the evenings of the 10th and 14th.

Epoch 1847, July 0.0, Greenwich M. T.

Mean anomaly,	283° 56' 54''.0	
Longitude of perihelion,	8 17 24 .1	} M. E. July 0.
Ascending node,	137 25 35 .1	
Inclination,	15 2 56 .1	
Angle of Eccentricity,	13 49 20 .0	
Log. semi-axis major,	0.4016899.	
Siderial period,	4.004 years.	

From these elements I have calculated the following ephemeris, which will probably be of some assistance to your astronomical readers, until we have obtained further observations for the corrections of the elements. The positions are given for 0h. M. T. at Greenwich.

	Right Ascension.	South Declination.	Log. Distance from Earth.
July 18,	16h. 59m. 6.3s.	5° 35' 39"	0.2140
" 21,	16 57 42.7	5 59 22	0.2183
" 24,	16 56 33.9	6 23 58	0.2229
" 27,	16 55 40.5	6 49 20	0.2279
" 30,	16 55 2.7	7 15 22	0.2331

The orbit is very similar to that of the planet Juno.

I remain, sir, yours, very respectfully, J. R. HIND.
Mr. Bishop's Observatory, Regent's Park, July 15.

Observations on the above Planet, made in the United States, at the Philadelphia High School, State of Pennsylvania.

HIGH SCHOOL OBSERVATORY, Aug. 6, 1847.

To the Editors of the North American and U. S. Gazette.

GENTLEMEN:—During a temporary absence from the city, my attention was called, by an article in the New York Herald, to the recent discovery of Hencke's second asteroid, at Driessen, on the first day of July last. On arriving in this city to-day, I learned that Mr. Russell Hinds' Elements and Ephemeris had been published in the Evening Mail, London, July 19th, and received in this city, and that the new asteroid had been observed on the nights of the 4th and 5th, at our Observatory, by Mr. Sears C. Walker, assisted by Messrs. Reynolds and Mason. It is of the ninth magnitude, and perfectly resembles a fixed star. I subjoin Mr. Hinds' Elements of the sixth Asteroid of our system. Its name has not yet reached us.

Epoch July 0, 1847,	283° 56' 54.0"	m. noon Gr'h.
Perihelion point,	8 17 24.1	} m. eq. July 1.
Ascending node,	137 25 35.1	
Inclination,	15 2 56.1	
Angle of eccentricity,	13 49 20.0	
Mean distance,	0.4016899	
Siderial period,	4.004	

The following Ephemeris from Mr. Hinds' Elements, (corrected by Mr. Walker's observations,) will serve to point out the place of this new Asteroid in the heavens. The date is for mean noon Greenwich.

	Planet's Right Ascension.			Planet's South Declination.		
	16h.	54m.	21s.	7°	56'	24"
August 2,						
“ 5,	16	54	17	8	23	32
“ 8,	16	54	18	8	51	4
“ 11,	16	54	45	9	18	54

The Elements of Mr. Hinds were computed from Encke's observation of July 5th, and Mr. Hinds' of July 10th and 14th. They resemble those of the Asteroid Juno. Mr. Walker's corrections of the Ephemeris here applied, are a diminution of twenty seconds of time in right ascension, and an increase of fourteen minutes of arc in south declination.

Mr. Hencke is the only astronomer, except Olbers, who has had the good fortune to discover two planets.

Respectfully yours,

E. OTIS KENDALL.

New Comet.

M. Mauvais discovered, on Sunday night, about 11 o'clock, a new telescopic comet, between the constellation Cepheus and the Lesser Bear. It is composed of a nucleus tolerably distinct, announced by a nebulosity, extended on one side by a tail. The position of this comet was, on July 4, 1847, at 13h. 35m. 50s., average time, right ascension, 22h. 8m. 13s.; northern declension, 80° 26'. Galignani.

On the Use of a Mixture of Spirit of Wine and Camphine, as a Light for Optical Purposes. By JOHN GEORGE CHILDREN, Esq., F. R. S.

I have lately assisted a friend in getting up an apparatus for dissolving views, &c., on a scale too large for sufficient illumination by the best Argand lamp, and we considered condensed hydrogen gas as too dangerous an agent for a plaything; especially in private houses in the country, where much must be left in the preparation of the gases, &c., to servants unused to such duties. We set to work, therefore to find a substitute that might answer our purpose; and, after a few trials, we obtained a tolerable light, by throwing the flame of spirit of wine on a surface of quicklime, by a current of oxygen gas, something after the manner of Lieut. Drummond's original experi-