

Obituary Notice.

Albert Marth died on the 5th August in the academical infirmary at Heidelberg, where he had undergone an operation for cancer.

Marth was born at Colberg in Pommerania on the 5th May 1828. After devoting himself for some time to the study of theology in the University of Berlin he went to Königsberg and took up the study of astronomy under the guidance of Professor C. A. F. Peters. In 1853 he succeeded E. Vogel as observer at Mr. Bishop's observatory, Regent's Park, London, where he discovered the minor planet (29) Amphitrite on the 1st March 1854. He had already at Königsberg commenced his activity as a computer by calculating an orbit and ephemeris for comet 1852 IV, and in the course of the following years he computed orbits for various comets and minor planets. At the same time he showed in several papers, on elliptic orbits of great excentricity, on the determination of the orbit of a satellite &c., his ability to deal with questions of theoretical astronomy from new points of view. At the Durham University Observatory, where he had been appointed observer in the summer of 1855, the instruments at his disposal were small, and during the seven years Marth spent at Durham, he seems chiefly to have devoted his time to calculations, among the results of which may be mentioned his well known memoir on the Zenith Distances observed with the Greenwich Transit Circle (A. N. Vol. 53).

Marth left Durham to join Mr. Lassell at Malta, where he observed with the celebrated four-foot reflector from the beginning of 1863 till the summer of 1865. Among the results perhaps the most valuable is the catalogue of 600 nebulae found by him, for which he determined the positions with a degree of accuracy which is very remarkable, when we consider the peculiar and unwieldy instrument he had to use. It is worth placing on record that Marth was anxious to employ the great reflector to search for possible satellites of Mars, but that he was unable to do so, as Mr. Lassell used the instrument himself to examine the surface markings of Mars.

After leaving Malta Marth settled in London, where he lived for a number of years, occasionally engaged by Mr. De La Rue to assist in the reduction of his solar observations. In 1883 he was appointed Astronomer in charge of Colonel Cooper's observatory at Markree Castle in the county of Sligo, Ireland, which position he continued to hold till the time of his death. During the last twenty years of his life he published regularly in the Monthly Notices ephemerides of satellites and for physical observations of planets, which involved a considerable amount of labour but earned for him the gratitude of a great many observers.

Armagh Observatory, 1897 Aug. 26.

J. L. E. Dreyer.

Beobachtung des Planeten (233) Asterope.

1897 Aug. 4 13^h 48^m 41^s M. Z. Düsseldorf α app. = 22^h 40^m 6^s.26 (7.815) δ app. = +4° 21' 0".6 (0.809)
10 Vgl. mit AG. Albany 7874 Gr. 11^m Beobachter Dr. *W. Luther.*

Düsseldorf 1897 Aug. 5.

R. Luther.

Spectrum of ζ Puppis.

In A. N. 3408 it was shown that a line having wave length 5413.9 probably exists in the spectrum of this star. This line is clearly visible on three photographs of this star taken in Arequipa on isochromatic plates.

Harvard College Observatory, 1897 July 29.

Edward C. Pickering.

Pianeta (235) Carolina. Correzione dell'effemeride (Veröff. R. I. No. 5): Sett. 1 — 4^s — 0'.5. Gr. 11.8. *E. Millosevich.*

Anzeige. Die Stelle eines Assistenten an der Kgl. Sternwarte zu Göttingen ist zum 1. Nov. d. J. neu zu besetzen. Meldungen nimmt der Director der Sternwarte, Prof. *W. Schur* entgegen.

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