

175 PARABOLIC ORBITS AND OTHER  
RESULTS REDUCED FROM OVER 3200 METEORS.

BY

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The first observations on which the results in this paper depend were made on November 14, 1898. This does not include a few records found in some old books, which had been made many years previously, but never apparently used. No year from 1898 to the present has passed without the addition of quite a number of meteor observations until, up to the end of 1910, about 6500<sup>2</sup> (†) had been recorded. From lack of experience, both in meteor observing and other lines of astronomical work, the three Leonid, one Perseid, and the Biellid radiants deduced from the 1898 and 1899 observations, can not be considered as accurate.

Even the paths of meteors plotted in 1900 are probably not so good as those since obtained. However, from 1901 on, while naturally each year should improve the methods and accuracy slightly, yet there is reason to feel almost equal confidence in the results.

I am under deep obligation to Director Edmund Stone of the Leander McCormick Observatory, for continued encouragement and advice in this work from its very beginning to the present.

In scarcely less degree am I under obligation to Director Campbell of the Lick Observatory, for encouragement in this work and allowing me time to carry most of the computations to a conclusion while I was a member of the staff there during 1909 and 1910.

It must also be stated that about 1900 meteors, or nearly one third of the total, were observed by me while at the Lick Observatory. All of the remainder, except about 300, were observed at or near the Leander McCormick Observatory, University of Virginia.

(†) So far as I have been able to find from records Corder, Denning, Heis, and Zezioli are the only four observers who have each observed over 5000 meteors.

I am further indebted to the following observers, who at various times have either assisted in recording or made separate observations at other places under the same general plan:

Messrs. T. B. Lyons, G. F. Paddock, K. S. Patton, J. B. Smith<sup>and J. P. Smith</sup> of the University of Virginia. Dr. S. Albrecht, Evenden, Miss E. Gianoy, Messrs. P. W. Merrill, K. Lows<sup>and</sup>, R. Young of the Lick Observatory. Occasional or remarkable meteors have been reported by others.

The methods of observing have evolved with increasing experience, but from 1900 on, they have not changed greatly. At present a meteor is observed as follows: Maps are prepared of the region of the sky that is to be especially observed on a given night, care being taken to choose that map whose projection is best for the region in question. In a large recording book a number of columns are ruled, headed as follows (1) Time, (2) Number, (3) Class, (4) Color, (5) Magnitude, (6) Length of Path, (7) Duration in tenths of seconds, (8) Duration of Train in tenths of seconds, (9) Remarks, (10) Serial Number, (11) Accuracy. The designations are mostly self explanatory. (2) gives the number of the meteor for the night, (10) the serial number for the year—filled in later, (11) the accuracy, on a scale of 3, with which the meteor was observed. Beside the plotted path of the meteor on the map is placed the number for the night and later the serial number in ink. The serial numbers are so arranged that the first figure itself gives the year during which the meteor was seen. Thus 1—117 shews that the meteor was seen in 1901, 9—1136 in 1909 etc.. The methods used to obtain the most accurate plot of a meteor's path are as follows: The greatest care was taken to obtain the direction and any one point over which the meteor passed. Often, of course, a meteor's beginning and ending points fall exactly at or very near a convenient star, or at such a distance between two near stars

that it is easy to estimate the distance proportionally and accurately. In such a case the direction, determined nearly always by holding up a straight rod so that it appeared to <sup>lie</sup> ~~be~~ parallel to the meteor's path in the sky, served mainly as a convenient check.

But in most cases a meteor neither begins nor ends at a point which is easy to determine. Then by glancing backwards and forwards along the rod the eye can always pick up a star in the same great circle. Also there is scarcely ever any difficulty in finding some one point actually in the path itself. As the eye readily estimates the length of path of a meteor with fair accuracy, the parts in front and behind the chosen point can be estimated instantly, and by means of the other reference point entirely outside the path, the meteor's position can be gotten with great accuracy and speed, compared with other methods. By choosing some point behind rather than in front of the path we also in this method eliminate to a great extent the effects of poor projection, which may be troublesome near the edges of almost any map. However, I wish to state that meteors beginning at a greater distance than  $30^\circ$  from the radiant were never given much weight, and whenever there ~~was~~ reason to suspect that a plotted path was distorted by poor projection the meteor was either given extremely little or no weight at all.

For the strong streams such as the Leonids and Perseids, the radiants could frequently be determined by meteor <sup>s</sup> within  $10^\circ$ .

Other meteors further out but well observed were always used, but the resulting point would generally have been practically the same, had they been omitted.

It is obvious that the short paths near the radiant are most useful in its determination, both because of their nearness and also their low apparent velocity, which permits of the most accurate plotting. They nearly always have trains

If for any reason certain meteors could not be at once plotted their paths were described with such detail that afterwards when put upon maps the results were quite comparable with those plotted at the moment. As far as possible, however, each meteor was plotted where observed.\* The usual plan was to work up the results partially the next day so that details could be added, when necessary, while the recollection was fresh. The observations made by others, who have assisted or observed elsewhere for me, were made in the same general way, only the results were left to me to work up completely and the responsibility for the latter rests upon me. As confirming the results of previous observers the following points may be noted as of general interest with regard to the work and results. Most of the meteors were observed after midnight and to the east of the meridian. I have no reason to believe that the south-east or north-east quadrants differed appreciably in the number of meteors seen within them. Those seen before midnight differed much, as a rule, in apparent velocity from those seen after, being much slower. Nearly always there was a marked falling off in numbers before the least trace of twilight appeared. Very slow meteors leave trains, nearly without exception. Meteors with curved or sinuous paths are rare (see tables). In very many cases two or even three meteors travel the same apparent paths within a few seconds. In showers like the Perseids, two, or more meteors <sup>frequently</sup> appear at the same instant. In most cases radiants cover large areas only because of poor observations, since the paths of well observed meteors generally intersect nearly in a point or within a small area. The most notable exception to this rule was on Aug. 10 and 11, 1910.

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\* On an average a single meteor was plotted and a full record made in about 40 seconds. However, about 60 per hour would be the most possible to observe fully under usual conditions.

The physical appearance of meteors, such as color, apparent velocity, etc., while all very useful in assigning a given meteor to the proper radiant, can scarcely ever be held as conclusive evidence that it does belong to any given radiant. Many cases could be sighted, especially in August and October, in which meteors have every physical characteristic exactly like numbers of the main stream but come from distant radiants.

Also numerous meteors of the principal streams differ very much from the the average member of that stream. This point is to be especially noted in view of the statement often found that a meteor belongs to a given stream because it looks like the average member of it, though its direction was frequently very poorly determined or perhaps not at all.

Radiants have been found by projecting the plotted paths backwards. In regard to those for which parabolic elements have been computed this rule was followed. At least 3 meteors paths on projection must meet within a circle not more than  $0.05$  in diameter.

Any other well-observed meteor whose projected path comes within  $1^\circ$  of the centre is accepted and given due weight. Any other meteor whose projected path comes within  $2^\circ$  of the point may be used, but would be given little weight. The radiant when finally accepted lies at the weighted center of gravity, as it may be called, of the area enclosed by the projection. The weight given each projection depends on how near the meteor was and how well observed.

An absolute rule has been made that under no conditions have meteors observed on more than one night been used to determine any radiant.

It is my firm conviction that not following this rule has led many previous observers to catalogue hundreds of fictitious radiants whose presence in our catalogues only hampers the future growth of meteoric astronomy

Only in the case of a radiant known to be stationary could the combination of meteor paths observed on different nights be justifiable, and stationary radiants must be rare phenomena,\* since the meteoric apex moves, on account of the orbital motion of the Earth, about  $1^\circ$  per day through the sky and each stream has also its own motion in space.

Since such combinations, in effect, presuppose the existence of stationary radiants, they appear to prove that on the assumption of which they largely owe their own apparent existence. Had I been willing to combine several nights work there is little doubt that the number of my radiants could have easily been doubled. Owing to this precaution largely, I presume, my own work gives little indication of stationary radiation.

Most of the meteors observed came during July, August, October, and November. Quite a number have been recorded in January, April and May, and a few in December. The other four months have furnished no results, observations never having been made during them.

It should be stated that only a small fraction of my time given to observing could be devoted to meteor observations, which fact explains why the total number is not larger.

The formulas and methods for computing the parabolic orbits which follow in the tables were taken from 'Die Bahnbestimmung der Himmelskörper' by Julius Baehinger, which has proved invaluable. In the thirty-fifth chapter of this work the equations will be found in full.

Believing that in some cases the radiants were known more ~~slightly~~ closely than to whole degrees the measurements on the maps were made to tenths of degrees. The transformations from right ascension and declination to latitude

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\* Refer to Mon. Not. R.A.S., Vol. XXXVIII, p115,  
Astr. Nach. Vol. XCIII, p209,  
Bulletin Astr. Vol. XI p.409-10.

and longitude and all the actual computations for the elements were made with 4-place logarithms, the angles being taken out to the nearest minute. However, in the tables of results they were again reduced to the nearest tenth degree, that being quite as accurate as the observations could give.

All obtainable works on meteoric astronomy have been freely consulted and, as will appear later, certain conclusions on the question of stationary radiation have been partially reached by discussion of the work of other observers.

Finally it may be stated that it is hoped at some future time to study the data on which these results are based with a view to the solution of other problems, not taken up or only mentioned in this paper.



## The Aquarid Meteors of May.

These meteors were never seen in sufficient numbers before 1910 to deduce a radiant for them. Indeed, cloudy weather or moonlight had never permitted any of the former attempts to be successful. However, in 1910 good radiants were secured on May 4 and May 11. On May 4, at the Lick Observatory, numerous meteors were seen in the south-east by Dr. Curtis and later by myself. During the half hour before dawn, at intervals when my assistance could be dispensed with, I was able to observe 9 meteors, 6 coming from the Aquarid radiant. This was therefore well determined, as the observations were good. During about the same interval Dr. Curtis saw 4 more Aquarids. The hourly rate must certainly have been quite high. The average length of path for the Aquarids was  $10.5^{\circ}$  and average duration  $0.64^s$ .

On May 5, my undivided attention was given to meteors from  $13^{h} 23^{m}$  to  $14^{h} 58^{m}$ , during which interval 13 meteors were observed. *Not more than 2 could have been Aquarids. On May 11, during an interval of 10 minutes later while in the* Crossley dome, just before dawn, 8 meteors, of which 5 or possibly 6 were Aquarids, were observed. A good radiant was obtained from them. The average length of path was  $7.8^{\circ}$ , and the average duration  $0.55^s$ .

On May 13, from  $14^{h} 7^{m}$  to  $15^{h} 20^{m}$ , 14 meteors were seen. Not more than two could have been Aquarids.

On May 14, information was given me that 14 meteors had been seen by one person from  $14^{h} 45^{m}$  to  $15^{h} 30^{m}$ . Whether any Aquarids were among them was not stated.

On May 15, one Aquarid was seen.

On May 19, during a continuous watch of one hour before dawn, and an intermittent watch earlier, no Aquarids were seen.

The vicinity of the radiant of possible meteors in the tail of Halley's

Comet was examined several times for short periods with the 12-inch refractor and low power giving a large field of view. <sup>No</sup>~~The~~ meteors were seen with this instrument. The following table gives the elements for Comet Halley and the parabolic elements deduced from the observations on the three dates ~~X~~

	G. M. T.	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$l$	$\Omega$	$\pi$	$\pi - \Omega$	$\eta$
Comet Halley	1910							
Aquarids	May 4.97	334.0	-3.4	163 12	57 16	168 58	111 42	0.5869
Aquarids*	May 6.93	337.7	-0.6	166 15	44 4	155 6	111 2	0.6770
Aquarids	May 11.99	342.0	-0.6	163 9	45 58	148 17	102 19	0.6067
				166 41	50 51	155 7	104 16	0.6297

of

The connection ~~with~~ the meteors with the comet is quite obvious. The probable connection of these meteors with Comet Halley was pointed out long ago by Professor A. Herschel (MON. NOT. R.A.S., XXXVIII, P. 379.), but the data on which his conclusions were based was not extensive.

However, in 1910 the most interesting point is the enormous size indicated for this meteoric current. On May 4.97 Halley was about ~~63~~ million miles from the Earth, which was at the same time about 8 million miles from Halley's orbit. On May 11.99 these figures had changed to 34 million and 13 million miles respectively. In other words the space at least partially filled by meteors connected with this comet was presumably, a cylinder of ~~13,000~~<sup>million</sup> miles radius. Nothing could illustrate better the extreme complexity of some of the principle meteor currents than the ~~example~~<sup>a</sup> of their possible size. It is to be noted also that some of these meteors preceded the comet by 63 million miles and therefore it is probable greater numbers followed it, but of course no data can be gotten on this point. It is of interest to note the eastward movement of the radiant between the ~~two~~ dates given and further that May 6 seems the latest that these meteors have previously been seen.

\* Computed from data given in Popular Astronomy, Nov., 1910, p. 538. Observed at Vieques, P.R., by George Hurst. I projected the meteors on the printed chart accompanying the article and found Aquarii at the radiant. The computation was made on this assumption which must be nearly true.

There is a curious coincidence between some of the elements of the Aquarids and the main Orionid stream. The mean elements are tabulated here for comparison.

Mean Date 1900 <sup>a</sup>	$L$	$z$	$q$	$\pi$	$\Omega$	$\pi - \Omega$
Aquarids (3) 10 May 7.96	316.3	165.4	0.638	152.8	47.5	105.3
Orionids (9) 1900 to 1908	116.6	161.4	0.536	113.4	25.6	87.8

One can see how closely the inclinations agree, and also that the <sup>perihelion distances</sup>  $\pi$  do not differ very greatly. The longitudes of perihelia differ about  $40^\circ$ .

\*\* See also Popular Astronomy Aug.-Sept., 1910, P. 422, for another mention of these meteors.

## The July and August Meteors.

Both July and August are months during which meteors are very numerous and, besides, the great Perseid stream offers exceptional opportunities.

My first observations of the Perseids were made in 1899, and every year since has added considerable data. The radiants deduced show unmistakably the regular shift of the radiant from day to day in the direction of increasing right ascension, and, to a smaller degree, also in declination.

But as elliptical orbits have several times been computed for the Perseids it was thought useless to compute either a single new elliptical one or parabolic orbits for the separate dates. However, in the table the residuals from Denning's ephemeris (see his *General Catalogue of Meteor Radiants*, P. 210.) are given.

In this table are given in order named (1) G.M.T. of the middle<sup>of</sup> observations (2)  $L$ , (3)  $\alpha$ , (4)  $\delta$ , (5) number of meteors used to find radiant point, (6) Ephemeris—Observed values in  $\alpha$  (7) Ephemeris—Observed values in  $\delta$ . A stationary meteor is considered to give a separate radiant, and the two cases of this kind are so tabulated. Altogether 27 radiants are given. The next table gives (1) date, (2) time of beginning, (3) time of ending, (4) time actually occupied in observing and recording, (5) total number of meteors, (6) rate per hour, (7) factor of rate, (8) corrected rate, (9) number of Perseids, (10) rate of Perseids, (11) corrected rate of Perseids. Approximately 3100 meteors were observed during July and August and results from these form the basis for these tables and results.

This factor is taken as 1.0 when the night is clear and free from moonlight, when observing conditions are good and when the horizon is unobstructed. If any unfavorable conditions arise, the factor is lowered in the proportion that it is believed the number of meteors seen was diminished.

Denning's positions are assumed as being at Greenwich Mean Midnight. However as his are given by dates and not by  $L$  therefore the positions are not strictly comparable.

G M T 1900+	L	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$s$	$\Delta$		NOTES.
					$\alpha$	$\delta$	
					E - O	E - O	
1899 Aug. 10.75	47.9	39.5	+52.3	32	+5.8	+0.7	
1900 " 10.82	48.8	45.6	55.0	24	+0.3	+2.0	
1901 " 8.79	46.5	37.7	57.4	9	+5.3	-0.8	
1901 " 9.77	47.5	42.0	57.8	28	+2.2	+2.1	
1902 " 10.82	48.2	40.0	57.0	24	+5.4	+0.1	
1902 " 11.8	49.1	46.4	57.0	26	+0.9	+0.4	
1902 " 11.8	49.1	47.0	52.8	1	+0.3	+0.5	
1903 July 21.76	28.5	23.6	50.0	5	-1.4	+1.7	
1903 " 23.84	30.4	26.0	51.2	6	-1.6	+1.1	
1903 " 28.7	35.4	36.0	55.9	4	-6.0	-2.2	[G.F.P.]
1903 " 28.79	35.4	32.4	54.7	3	-2.4	-1.0	
1903 Aug. 11.77	48.9	44.0	56.2	17	+2.6	+1.1	
1904 " 10.79	48.8	43.1	56.0	5	+2.3	-1.1	
1904 " 10.83	48.8	41.0	56.2	11	+4.4	-0.9	[J.B.S.]
1904 " 11.77	49.6	45.2	58.0	6	+1.4	-0.7	
1904 " 11.84	49.7	46.7	57.0	25	+0.0	-0.3	[J.B.S.]
1904 " 12.74	50.7	50.8	57.4	5	-3.0	-0.2	
1904 " 14.82	52.7	54.9	63.4	7	-4.3	-5.3	Persids ??
1904 " 16.74	54.5	53.6	61.4	5	-0.6	-2.8	
1905 " 9.57	47.3	41.1	57.2	10	+3.0	+1.6	
1905 " 11.63	49.4	44.7	55.3	24	+1.8	+1.9	
1906 " 10.75	48.2	41.2	57.0	9	+4.1	+0.0	
1906 " 11.75	49.2	43.4	56.0	5	+3.2	+1.3	
1907 " 4.75	42.2	35.0	55.1	4	+3.2	+0.5	
1907 " 11.74	49.0	45.7	56.2	10	+0.9	+1.1	
1908 " 1.74	40.0	28.6	50.4	5	+6.1	+4.4	
1909 " 1.74	40.0	29.2	52.5	1	+5.5	+2.3	No. 8-049
1909 July 23.91	31.2	24.4	50.9	4	+0.0	+1.4	
1909 Aug 9.98	47.6	39.1	56.8		+5.3	+0.1	
1909 " 10.93	48.6	40.0	57.0	11	+5.5	+0.1	
1909 " 11.87	49.6	42.4	57.5	44	+4.4	+0.2	
1909 " 13.87	51.5	45.6	57.7	17	+3.7	+0.2	
1910 " 1.93	39.7	31.9	58.6	4	+3.0	-3.8	
1910 " 4.95	42.6	37.6	56.6	4	-0.8	-1.0	
1910 " 6.9	44.5	37.6	55.7	12	+3.1	+0.4	
1910 " 10.93	48.4	41.4	56.4	12	+4.1	+0.7	
1910 " 11.86	49.3	44.3	57.9	31	+2.4	-0.6	

DATE			BEGINNING	ENDING	TOTAL	$\frac{S}{TOTAL}$	RATE	FACTOR	RATE	$\frac{S}{COR.}$	PERSFIR	RATE	RATE
1899	Aug.	10	10 <sup>H</sup> 40 <sup>m</sup>	16 <sup>H</sup> 18 <sup>m</sup>	83 <sup>m</sup>	35	25.3	0.9	28.1	32	23.1	25.7	
1900	July	30	12 20	16 0		20		0.4					Intermittent watch.
	Aug.	10	12 0	16 50	290	42	8.7	0.4	21.8	40	8.3	20.8	
		15	8 0	11 40		49		0.9		8			Intermittent watch.
		17	8 40	10 40	120	25	12.5	0.9	13.4	3	1.5	1.7	
		18	8 0	10 55		53		1.0					Intermittent watch.
		19	9	11	120	20	10.0	1.0	10.0				
1901	July	28	13 58	16 10	132	23	10.5	0.7	14.4	1	0.5	0.7	
	Aug.	7	11 23	12 50	87	10	6.9	0.5	13.8	4	2.8	5.6	
		8	11 46	15 36	180	32	10.7	1.0	10.7	16	5.3	5.3	
		9	10 31	15 58	327	89	16.3	1.0	16.3	55	10.1	10.1	
1902	July	28	13 12	15 34	99	18	10.8	1.0	10.8	2	1.2	1.2	
	Aug.	10	9 21	16 9	285	72	14.9	0.8	18.6	44	9.3	11.6	
		11	13 40	16 10	150	96	38.4	1.0	38.4	76	30.4	30.4	
1903	July	20	11 52	13 52	120	9	4.5	0.8	5.6	1	0.5	0.6	
		21	11 51	14 10	139	19	8.2	1.0	8.2	11	4.7	4.7	
		23	14 0	16 0	120	25	12.5	0.7	17.9	6	3.0	4.3	
		24	13 0	15 35	155	31	12.0	0.7	17.1	5	3.9	5.6	
		27	11 40	15 34	234	80	20.5	0.5	41.0	6	1.5	3.0	
		28	11 50	15 55	234	47	12.1	0.7	17.3	3	0.8	1.1	
		28			205	33	9.7	0.7	13.9	5	1.5	2.1	[E.F.P.]
	Aug.	11	11 10	15 47	174	22	7.6	0.4	19.0	21	7.2	18.0	
		11	12 0	14 24	150	18	7.2	0.5	14.4	2	0.8	1.6	[E.F.P.]
1904	Aug.	5	15 10	16 21	71	9	7.6			7	5.9		
		10	12 50	14 50	120	21	10.5	0.3	35.0	19	9.5	31.7	
		10	12 22	15 22	180	102	<del>32.0</del>						[J.B.S.] Charleston, Mich.
		11	9 50	16 26	300	98	19.2	0.5	38.0	69	13.8	27.6	
		14	13 56	14 30	34	17	30.0			16	28.2		[J.B.S.] Charleston, Mich.
		12	10 10	14 55	210	26	7.4	0.5	14.8	17	4.9	9.7	
		14	12 45	16 5	200	46	13.8	0.8	17.2	15	4.5	5.6	
		16	12 20	14 40	80	10	7.5	0.7	10.7	6	4.6	6.6	
1905	Aug.	9	10 10	15 45	250	77	18.5	1.0	18.5	41	9.8	9.8	at Surco, Spain.
		10	13 40	15 0	80	17	12.8	0.5	25.6	16	12.3	24.6	" " "
		11	14 0	16 0	120	96	48.0	1.0	48.0	84	42.0	42.0	" " "
1906	Aug.	10	9 40	15 40	194	42	13.0	0.5	26.0	28	8.7	17.4	
		11	12 20	13 20	60	16	16.0	0.5	32.0	14	14.0	28.0	
1907	Aug.	1	11 40	15 15	115	20	10.5	0.7	15.0	7	3.7	5.3	
		4	12 28	15 21	180	40	13.3	0.7	19.0	15	5.0	7.1	
		11	9 32	15 21	181	81	26.9	0.6	44.8	57	18.9	30.2	
1908	Aug.	1	11 29	14 20	171	43	15.1			16	5.6		
1909	July	21	13 12	14 42	90	34	22.7	1.0	22.7	6	4.0	4.0	
		23	12 49	14 19	90	20	13.3	0.8	16.6	2	1.3	1.6	
		26	12 42	14 42	120	43	28.7	1.0	28.7	2	1.0	1.0	
		27	12 56	14 41	105	37	21.1	1.0	21.1	3	1.8	1.8	
	Aug.	9	11 52	13 57	120	47	23.5	0.8	29.4	25	12.5	15.6	more
		10	12 52	15 38	155	122	47.2	0.9	52.4	102	39.5	43.9	22 by [E.G.]
		11	9 21	16 10	395	338	51.3	1.0	51.3	223	35.4	35.4	
		12	9 38	19 49	9	8	53.3	1.0	53.3	8	53.3	53.3	
		13	11 20	14 30	190	79	24.9	1.0	24.9	42	13.3	13.3	

DATE		BEGINNING	ENDING	TOTAL	$\frac{S}{\text{TOTAL}}$	RATE	FACTOR	RATE	$\frac{S}{\text{PERSEID}}$	RATE	FACTOR	RATE
1909	Aug.	11	11 <sup>H</sup> 17 <sup>M</sup>	11 <sup>H</sup> 49 <sup>M</sup>	32 <sup>M</sup>	64	120					[S.A.] counting only.
		11	11 15	12 15	60	134	134					[E.] " "
		11	12 3	12 26	23	40	104					[P.W.M.] " "
		11	13 49	24 13	24	30	75					[P.W.M.] " "
		11	14 13	14 41	28	70	150					[P.W.M.] " "
1910	July	28	11 0	11 58		11	0.7					Intermittent watch.
		29	10 34	11 27		7	0.8		2			" "
		31	12 50	15 50		24	0.8		7			" "
	Aug.	1	12 38	15 38		51	1.0		9			" "
		4	13 28	16 1		19	0.9		10			" "
		6			190	59	18.6	1.0	18.6	29	9.2	9.2
		8	13 56	15 56		18	0.8		8			" "
		10	12 53	15 33	160	100	37.5	0.8	46.9	61	22.9	27.9
		11	9 24	15 47	383	263	41.2	0.8	51.5	204	32.0	40.0
		11	12 36	12 56	20	35	105.0	1.0	105.0			[P.W.M.] counting only.

DATE.		BEGAN	ENDED	TOTAL	METEORS	RATE	FACTOR	RATE COR.	REMARKS
1900	07.	19 11 <sup>H</sup> 39 <sup>M</sup>	17 13 <sup>M</sup>	334 <sup>M</sup>	117	21.0	0.9	23.3	
		26 8 39	10 44	125-	16	7.7+	1.0	7.7	
01		18 12 27	16 9	220	63	17.2	0.9	19.1	
		19 11 24	16 37	313	83	15.9	1.0	15.9	
02		19 12 13	16 50	225	16	3.5	0.2±	17.5±	
03		18 13 13	16 16	193	54	17.7	0.8	22.1	
		19 11 24	17 38	360	144	18.8	1.0	18.8	31 by [P.S.]
04		14 13 22	15 5	100	23	13.8	0.8	17.2	
		16 12 23	15 29	160	39	14.6	0.9	16.2	
		18 11 8	17 16	360	75	12.5	0.6	20.8	
		19 12 0	16 30	270	60	13.3	0.7	19.0	[P.S.]
		18 12 0	16 40	280	55	11.8	0.7	16.9	[P.S.]
05		20 14 16	17 16	180	34	11.3	0.6	18.8	
		23 14 25	16 15	110	28	15.3	0.9	17.0	
06		12 12 2	12 58	56	13	13.9	1.0	13.9	
		15 12 36	17 6	270	76	16.9	1.0	16.9	
		26 14 43	16 13	150	33	13.2	1.0	13.2	
07		15 15 18	16 46	88	20	13.7	0.9	15.2	
08		18 11 12	13 45	150	24	7.6	0.8	12.0	
09		12 14 55	17 5	120	27	13.5	1.0	13.5	
		13 13 17	16 52	215	47	13.1	0.8	16.4	
		15 11 30	16 0	270	88	16.7	0.8	20.9	
		19 13 34	15 19	100	20	12.0	0.6±	20.0±	
		22 12 0	15 50	230	69	18.0	0.9	20.0	
10		8 15 7	16 32		7				Inst. alt. t. watch
		13 14 5	15 10		8				" "
		25 11	13		11				" "



While these tables give the principal results some remarks may be added. The richness of the stream varied greatly from year to year, not only in numbers but in the brightness of the meteors, especially near maximum.

So far as numbers go, 1909 August 11 furnished the finest shower, 338 meteors being seen of which 223 were Perseids. The radiant areas were larger than usual in 1909. (For a fuller description of my observation of this return see the Lick Observatory Bulletin No. 186.)

In 1901 on Aug. 9, meteors were numerous but on former dates scarce. 1902 gave a good display at maximum. In 1903 Perseids were numerous late in July but moonlight spoiled the first half of August. 1904 gave a good display. The maximum of 1905, as observed at Daroca, Spain, was not a conspicuous one though weather conditions were good. During 1906 and 1908 the maximum came in bad weather, while that of 1907 was not a rich one. On an average a Perseid meteor x seen before midnight remains visible  $0^{\circ}.525$  and after midnight  $0^{\circ}.385$ . These figures are deduced from 393 Perseids observed 1903—1909 inclusive <sup>for</sup> of which the durations were tabulated. They usually leave good trains if the meteor is as bright as the <sup>third</sup>  $\lambda$  magnitude. Their prevailing color is red or yellow, few blue or green ones being seen. Other radiants in the neighborhood often furnish meteors precisely like the Perseids themselves, and great care has to be used to keep from misidentification, especially in the case of meteors from x near  $\gamma$  Persæi, which come in some numbers about August 10. This trouble is more serious earlier when the Perseids themselves are no more plentiful than some of the other radiants in contemporaneous activity. On any clear night after July 20, one can be fairly certain of seeing enough meteors to well repay observing, and often enough Perseids to obtain a good radiant for them.

### The October Meteor Streams.

During this month many rich streams, whose radiants are situated in and near Orion, are in activity. This group was observed with great care because several of the best meteor observers have referred to it as the typical case in which a radiant remains in a practically constant position for quite a long period.

The paper dealing most at length with observations of the Orionids, so far as I have been able to find, is that by W.F. Denning in the Monthly Notices R.A.S. Vol. 56, 774-79. He also treats briefly of them in Vol. 50 of the same publication and in his "General Catalogue of Meteor Radiants".

In all these papers it is stated that the radiant is stationary. Later these papers will be referred to at length.

My observations of this most important group of radiants began in 1900 and, during every October since, some data has been collected bearing upon them. The following table gives the number of meteors observed in October for the year 1900 to 1909 inclusive, on nights when regular observations were made. The columns give from left to right (1) date, (2) time of beginning, (3) time of ending, (4) number of minutes actually spent in observing, (5) number of meteors, (6) rate, (7) factor depending on sky etc., (8) corrected rate. The rates are for one observer.

Seven other observers have assisted in this work. Their assistance was especially valuable in 1904, when J.B. Smith and J.P. Smith on October 18 observed 115 meteors at a station 7 miles S.W. from the Charlottesville, Va. station.

The other observers only assisted, as a rule, in counting and recording meteors. Of the ~~meteors~~ meteors seen in this month I personally observed 1075  $\pm$ . Besides those given in the table there are records of 29 meteors seen on other nights in October. Therefore 1279 meteors form the basis of this discussion. On working over the maps, on which are the paths of such meteors as were well enough observed to be worth plotting, 64 radiants were obtained, which were considered sufficiently accurately determined to have parabolic orbits calculated for them. The elements will be found in the general table of orbits. In the table of poorly determined or uncertain radiants will be found 7 more.

Of the good radiants, the 55 which fall within the region of the sky shown are plotted in Fig. 1. This figure is purposely drawn on a very large scale so that the radiants could be accurately plotted to tenths of a degree. The 11 radiants that belong to the main stream and all of which were observed on either Oct. 18 or Oct. 19 (when  $L$  was between  $115^{\circ}7$  and  $117^{\circ}4$ ) fall within a quadrilateral bounded by  $\alpha = 90^{\circ}.0$  and  $\alpha = 92^{\circ}.1$ , and  $\delta = +13^{\circ}.6$  and  $\delta = +16^{\circ}.6$ . If No. 112 and No. 113 which were observed by J.B. Smith and J.P. Smith are omitted, leaving the 9 observed by myself, the limits reduce to  $\alpha = 90^{\circ}.1$  and  $\alpha = 92^{\circ}.1$ ,  $\delta = +13^{\circ}.6$  and  $\delta = +15^{\circ}.9$ .

In other words the greatest possible deviation from the mean when all are considered is  $\Delta\alpha = \pm 1^{\circ}.05$ ,  $\Delta\delta = \pm 1^{\circ}.5$ . When the 9 observed by myself are considered this falls to  $\Delta\alpha = \pm 1^{\circ}.0$ ,  $\Delta\delta = \pm 1^{\circ}.15$ . These greatest possible residuals give evidence of the probable error of any single radiant determined and how nearly the positions can be relied on.

No. 121 should have been combined at one third weight with No. 122 before the orbits were calculated, but, since that was not done, the positions of the two are so combined and plotted on the map as one point. No. 123 and No. 124 were weighted equally and treated in the same manner. In both of these cases they are undoubtedly identical, having been observed on the same night, however, as two maps were used, two positions were obtained, and to be on the safe side orbits were calculated for each position.

The following table groups these 9 positions with regard to the year and  $L$ .

No.	YEAR.	$L$	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$z$	$\eta$	$\pi$	$\rho$	$\nu$
105	1901	116.2	91.2	+14.2	160.5	130.4	106.0	25.2	0.578
100	1903	115.7	92.1	13.6	159.9	128.0	110.8	24.8	0.618
112	1904	116.4	90.0	16.4	164.6	133.2	111.9	25.5	0.529
113	1904	116.4	90.8	16.6	165.1	132.3	110.2	25.5	0.544
114	1904	116.4	92.0	15.5	161.0	137.4	120.4	25.5	0.456
117	1908	116.5	90.2	14.3	160.2	132.4	110.3	25.4	0.542
Mean.		116.3	91.0	+15.1	161.9	132.3	113.3	25.3	0.544
123 } 124 }	1900	117.4	91.4	+15.4	162.7	132.1	110.2	26.4	0.548
121 } 122 }	1901	117.2	90.7	13.9	159.4	132.7	111.6	26.2	0.541
118	1903	116.6	91.5	14.4	158.7	136.5	118.7	25.7	0.472
Mean.		117.1	91.2	+14.6	160.3	133.8	113.5	26.1	0.520

x As the extreme range in  $L$  is only  $1^{\circ}.7$ , and as the difference of the mean  $\alpha$ 's  
 x and  $\delta$ 's fall within the possible errors, it may be permitted to combine the above, in ratio 2 to 1, to determine the best parabolic elements for the mean  $L$ . Whence we obtain:

$$1900.0 \quad L = 116.6 \quad \alpha = 91.1 \quad \delta = +14.9$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Elements} \\ \text{of} \\ \text{Orbits} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} z = 161.4 \\ \eta = 132.8 \\ \pi = 113.4 \\ \rho = 25.6 \\ \nu = 0.536 \end{array}$$

The following combinations are also suggested:  $\gamma$  127.7

198.9

No.	YEAR.	L	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$z$	$\eta$	$\rho$	$\pi$	$\sigma$
97	1904	114.4	91.6	+17.7	170.3	<del>115.7</del>	0.628	<del>87.4</del>	23.5
115	1904	116.4	93.4	+19.4	171.8	128.4	0.612	102.2	25.5
126	1905	118.2	97.8	+19.2	172.0	124.4	0.678	96.0	27.3
		116.3			171.4		0.639	<del>95.2</del> 99.0	26.1
125	1905	118.2	88.7	+16.2	163.0	138.2	0.443	123.6	27.3
<del>128</del>	<del>1909</del>	<del>120.3</del>	<del>90.0</del>	<del>+17.4</del>	<del>165.3</del>	<del>139.7</del>	<del>0.424</del>	<del>128.8</del>	<del>29.4</del>
130	1905	121.1	90.3	+19.3	169.8	140.0	0.394	132.1	30.3
		119.9			166.0		0.427	<del>127.7</del> 8.2	29.0
80	1904	112.4	95.9	+16.1	166.4	118.1	0.776	77.7	21.5
45	1909	113.3	97.9	+17.7	169.8	115.7	0.809	73.4	22.4
		112.8			168.2		0.792	75.6	22.0
87	1909	113.3	76.3	+19.7	170.8	149.8	0.252	132.0	22.4
96	1904	114.4	77.4	+20.0	169.2	156.1	0.163	135.8	23.5
		113.8			170.0		0.208	133.9	23.0
<del>103</del>	<del>1901</del>	<del>116.2</del>	<del>85.7</del>	<del>+10.9</del>	<del>150.4</del>	<del>138.0</del>	<del>0.446</del>	<del>121.2</del>	<del>25.2</del>
98	1903	115.7	84.2	+8.6	144.6	138.7	0.434	122.2	24.8
<del>104</del>	<del>1906</del>	<del>122.9</del>	<del>91.9</del>	<del>+7.7</del>	<del>143.1</del>	<del>137.3</del>	<del>0.457</del>	<del>126.6</del>	<del>32.0</del>
		118.3			146.0		0.446	123.3	27.3
74	1909	110.4	91.3	+4.4	144.1	118.4	0.772	76.3	19.5
78	1909	111.4	90.7	+5.7	145.8	121.3	0.729	83.0	20.4
		110.9			145.0		0.750	79.6	20.0
99	1903	115.7	87.6	+13.3	157.3	135.0	0.498	114.8	24.8
111	1904	116.4	88.9	+12.9	156.6	134.1	0.513	113.8	25.5
		116.0			157.0		0.506	114.3	25.2
73	1909	110.4	42.0	+1.5	17.5	163.3	0.103	166.5	20.4
83	1909	113.3	47.5	+13.1	19.5	165.6	0.062	173.5	22.4
101	1901	116.1	47.8	+11.8	18.8	161.3	0.104	167.8	25.2
		113.3			18.6		0.090	169.3	22.7

x        However, there still remain within the area bounded by  $\alpha = 75^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ ,  
x         $\delta = +5^\circ$  to  $+25^\circ$ , 13 radiants which apparently do not have any near connect-  
ion with any group. No less than 8 of these fall within the area bounded by  
x         $\alpha = 85^\circ$  to  $95^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +10^\circ$  to  $+20^\circ$ . These 8 were observed on October 13,  
15, 18, 19, and 25 of various years.

As stated before the radiants of the main stream which appears on Oct. 18  
x        and 19, all fall within an area bounded by  $\alpha = 90^\circ.0$  to  $92^\circ.1$ ,  $\delta = +13^\circ.6$   
x        to  $+16^\circ.6$ . Of the 8 radiants spoken of above only the two seen 1910, October  
15, are near enough to the principal radiant for errors of observation to throw  
them within this area. For the other 6 this possibility hardly exists. Indeed,  
3 of these 6 were observed on October 18 and 19, and of the last 3, No. 79,  
was uncertain, having been gotten from only 3 meteors. To show that the distri-  
bution is not entirely without order, even for these isolated cases, it should  
be noted that no radiant observed after October 19 lies south of  $+15^\circ$ , except  
No. 134 and No. 137. No. 137 is too far to the west to enter into the discussi<sup>on</sup>  
and 134 is evidently connected with No. 103, 104, and 98 in a small system,  
separate from the main current. I feel quite satisfied that the positions of  
the radiants given in the tables, represent their real places within about  $1^\circ$ ,  
sometimes less.

Two curious examples of the recurrence of radiants in the same places  
x        are given by No. 108 at  $\alpha = 79^\circ.2$ ,  $\delta = +28^\circ.6$  on 1904, Oct. 18.81, and No.  
x        132 at  $\alpha = 79^\circ.0$ ,  $\delta = +28^\circ.5$  on 1906, Oct. 25.84; also by No. 77 at  $\alpha = 87^\circ$ ,  
x         $\delta = +14.6$  on 1909, Oct. 13.94 and No. 110 at  $\alpha = 87^\circ.5$ ,  $\delta = 14^\circ.4$  on 1904.  
Oct. 18.81.

The general conclusions drawn from my October meteor observations are  
as follows:

x        Within an area bounded by  $\alpha = 79^\circ$  to  $103^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +4^\circ$  to  $+25^\circ$ , from Octob

12 to 26 inclusive, are found a great number of distinct radiants, which in general furnish similar meteors.

x That on Oct. 18 or 19 the maxima occur, the principal radiant being always within less than  $2^\circ$  of  $\alpha = 91^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +15^\circ$ .

That minor branches or streams appear which give evidence of an eastward movement in longitude with increase of date.

That these minor streams sometimes appear only during the same October or may ~~reappear~~ in following years.

That many isolated radiants are given which do not seem to have any <sup>connection</sup> with others either in position or elements.

That since for these radiants an error of as much as  $2^\circ$  in the given position seems unreasonable, from a study of the maps and records, they can not belong to one radiant, considered stationary.

Lastly that the suggested explanation is that most of the meteor currents had a common origin, but with the lapse of time have been separated into many minor branches, besides the great central stream.

These minor streams come irregularly, in most cases, and it is by no means necessary to suppose that any given one should appear every year. Indeed it may well be that a small number of meteors give a radiant one year which could never again be observed, because without doubt in the immense extent of such a general system or family of currents many small isolated groups are present which from their small size would never again cut the Earth's orbit in future returns to the Sun.

In Vol. 56 of the Monthly Notices R.A.S., P. 74-79, there is an article by W.T. Denning on the Orionids, in which he gives his grounds for concluding that their radiant remains stationary. However, in reviewing it, it is found

that in the first table of 19 radiant, 6 are useless for this discussion. (See Denning's own words P.78, lines 7 to 10.) In the second table of 30, 17 are also of no value, the reason being that observations of different nights and years were combined. The 11 available ones in the first table, all observed by Denning himself, fall within an area  $3^{\circ}$  by  $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . The 13 in the second fall within  $6^{\circ}$  by  $7^{\circ}$ . Therefore what he then called a stationary radiant covered at least  $8^{\circ}$  by  $7^{\circ}$ , or were we to discuss all the 49 radiant given by him  $8^{\circ}$  by  $9^{\circ}$ . Later in his "General Catalogue" are found 57 radiant assigned to this shower, scattered over an area of  $8^{\circ}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . When the 26 radiant not observed on a single night are thrown out, the rest lie within  $8^{\circ}$  by  $6^{\circ}$ . Nos. 51 and 52 require mention. Deduced from the same observations of Zezioli by Schiaparelli and later Denning, the results differ  $2^{\circ}$  in R.A. and  $3^{\circ}$  in decl. Further most or all of the 19 radiant given as Group LXXIX appear to have as much right to be included under the Orionids as many given as such. Group LXXV of 10 radiant, 8 gotten by combining two or more nights observations, also shows the same coordinates as the Orionids. Were these two groups combined, the Orionids could be made to appear throughout the whole year. Indeed, radiant are very numerous in this region of the sky and stationary radiant can be made to appear by loose combinations of observations and uncritical selection of material. A close study of Denning's own "General Catalogue" from P. 244 to 250 inclusive will show that many other equally logical conclusions could be reached by ~~merely~~ merely regrouping. Therefore it is very unsafe to conclude from this data that the Orionids really have a stationary radiant, as stated by him.



## The Leonid Meteors.

Observations on the Leonids were first made on Nov. 14, 1898. Afterwards they were continued in 1899, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1907 and 1909.

<sup>1</sup>  
Cloudy weather or moonlight prevented observations in 1902, 1905, and 1908. However, in all the other years mentioned meteors were observed, the richness of the showers varying very greatly.

Three tables are given for the Leonids, two quite similar to those already explained for the Perseids. The third is one giving the estimated durations for the Leonids in tenths of seconds. These estimates of course cannot be very accurate, but it is believed the means represent the truth fairly well. Practically all these meteors were observed after midnight. The mean duration for  
x the 257 given in the table is <sup>s</sup> 0.39.

Referring to the table of radiants it will be seen that no certain movement from date to date is indicated. But since  $L$  changes only a little over  $2^\circ$  for the extreme dates, this is hardly to be wondered at.

x Altogether about 1030+ meteors have been observed between Nov. 12--16 of the years enumerated above.

1901, Nov. 14 furnished the finest shower; 1898, Nov. 14, the second best; while in 1902 and 1904 considerable numbers appeared, with many very bright meteors, particularly in 1903.

Many Leonids give exceptionally long apparent paths and leave splendid  
x trains which remain visible from <sup>s</sup> 1 to <sup>s</sup> 5, often longer. They also furnish bright meteors of several different colors, which would seem to indicate the preponderance of different elements in individual meteors.

G.M.T.		L	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$\rightarrow$
1898 Nov	1486	142.7 <sup>0</sup>	153.0 <sup>0</sup>	+ 20.8	29
1899 "	1482	142	151.4	+ 19.3	3
1899 "	1586	14	151.2	+ 20.6	8
1900 "	1482		151.	+ 21.	
1900 "	1584	144.2	151.	+ 21.	
1901 "	1386	142.0	150.8	+ 22.5	13
1901 "	1495	143.1	151.6	+ 21.8	49
1901 "	1587	144.0	150.6	+ 22.4	37
1903 "	1484	142.4	151.2	+ 21.7	20
1903 "	1583	143.5	150.8	+ 22.0	51
1903 "	1583	143.5	150.8	+ 22.1	1 No. 3-562
1904 "	1488	143.3	150.6	+ 21.8	34
1904 "	1685	145.3	151.6	+ 22.1	6
1906 "	1682	144.8	151.3	+ 22.4	36
1909 "	1480	143.1	149.3	+ 21.6	3
1911 "	1600	144.2	150.6	+ 23.1	10

#### DURATIONS OF LEONIDS

DATE	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
1903 Nov. 12						1		
" 14				2	9	20	2	
" 15				7	46	19		
" 18					1			
1904 " 14			6	12	30	9	4	1
" 16			1	2	7			
1906 " 16	1	2	2	4	26	13	2	1
1907 " 13							1	
" 14					1	1		1
1909 " 14			1	2	5	2		
15				1	6	6	1	
TOTALS	1	2	10	30	131	70	10	3

DATE		BEGINNING		ENDING		TOTAL	$\frac{S}{\text{TOTAL}}$	RATE	FACTOR	RATE	$\frac{S}{\text{LEONID}}$	RATE	RATE	RE MARKS
		H	M	H	M	M								
1898	NOV	14	13	15	17	40	240	120	30.0	0.4	75.0	100	25.0	62.5
1899	"	14	14	11	14	53	42	7	10.0	0.2	50.0	7	10.0	50.0
1899	"	14	12	30	18	30	360	20	3.3	0.4	8.2	14	2.3	5.7
1900	"	12	14	13	16	50	157	11	4.2	0.6	7.0	2	0.8	1.3
1900	"	13	16	40	17	50	70	14	12.0	0.6	20.0	9	7.7	12.5
1900	"	14	12	12	17	12	150	25	5.0	0.4	12.5	15	6.0	15.0
1900	"	15	12	20	17	30	235	30	7.7	0.7	11.0	13	3.3	4.7
1901	"	13	12	30	17	45	300	57	11.4	1.0	11.4	15	3.0	3.0
1901	"	14	16	50	18	18	88	82	55.9	0.5	111.8	75	51.1	102.2
1901	"	15	13	10	17	55	265	74	16.8	1.0	16.8	41	9.3	9.3
1903	"	12	14	35	16	18	103	14	8.2	0.6	13.7	1	0.6	1.0
1903	"	14	12	28	17	28	275	80	17.5	0.5	35.0	55	12.0	24.0 2 observed.
1903	"	15	12	39	16	58	233	92	23.7	0.4	59.2	78	20.0	50.0
1903	"	18	10	50	13	20	140	17	7.3	0.6	12.2	1	0.4	0.7
1904	"	14	12	33	17	23	275	93	20.3	0.9	22.6	65	14.2	15.8
1904	"	16	14	55	17	16	141	28	11.9	0.6	19.8	10	4.3	7.2
1906	"	16	11	50	17	21	306	105	17.8	0.8	22.2	52	10.2	12.8
1907	"	13	14	18	16	18	120	18	9.0	1.0	9.0	1	0.5	0.5
1907	"	14	14	38	15	58	140	48	20.6	1.0	20.6	3	1.1	1.1
1909	"	14	12	32	15	52	180	44	14.7	0.9	16.3	14	4.7	5.2
1909	"	15	14	12	17	36	160	54	20.2	0.8	25.2	10	3.7	4.6

November

The following radiant are considered to be connected and are given with their elements. The means are given for each group.

		$\underline{L}$	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$\iota$	$\eta$	$\vartheta$	$\pi$	$\Omega$
150	1904	143.3	138.0	+49.2	122.6	113.3	0.834	99.4	232.5
158	1900	144.2	138.8	+47.8	124.6	113.7	0.829	100.9	233.5
160	1906	144.8	137.	+49.	122.2	116.3	0.797	106.6	234.1
					123.1		0.820	102.3	233.4
176	1907	142.6	139.5	+35.0	147.6	107.4	0.900	86.7	231.9
147	1909	143.1	139.9	+34.8	147.6	107.6	0.899	87.5	232.3
					147.6		0.900	87.1	232.1
146	1909	143.1	128.6	-2.0	140.0	<del>149.4</del>	0.733	<del>171.2</del>	52.3
163	1906	144.8	130.7	-1.2	143.0	<del>150.0</del>	0.741	<del>174.0</del>	54.1
					141.5	120.6 120.0	0.737	<del>172.6</del>	53.2
152	1903	143.5	72.5	+40.5	43.2	157.0	0.203	178.9	232.8
155	1901	144.0	70.2	+41.5	40.2	159.7	0.242	173.9	233.2
					41.7		0.222	109.2 176.4	233.0
142	1901	142.0	159.2	+52.6	112.6	94.3	0.984	59.8	231.3
148	1909	143.1	155.0	+58.0	107.0	94.4	0.993	61.2	232.3
157	1901	144.0	155.4	+50.9	116.3	98.8	0.966	70.8	233.3
					112.0		0.981		232.3

113.6  
114.2  
113.9

### Existence of Stationary Radiants.

As a typical case of a stationary radiant the group No. XLIII in Denning's "General Catalogue of Radiant Points of Meteoric Showers" was chosen for study. So far as the theoretical impossibility of all the radiants put within this group being really connected is concerned, it is most clearly proved by Th. Bradichin in his memoir "Sur L'Origine Des Étoiles Filantes", P.39--44. However, further observational data will be quite useful.

Therefore 68 maps have been examined which contain meteors recorded from 1900 to 1909 inclusive, and on which meteors coming from the region  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  Persei would be plotted. These maps were used in January, April, July, August, October, and November, all being months during which this shower is supposed to be visible.

On 24 of the maps not a single meteor can be found whose projected path would come within  $5^\circ$  of the point  $\alpha = 47.3^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +45.0^\circ$ . On 18 others one meteor might fall within these wide limits but is considered to belong to some other radiant for good reasons. Of the remaining 26 maps, 12 have one meteor each which would satisfy conditions. On the last 14 several are found, but in most cases these were used about August 11, and these meteors clearly belonged to the main Perseid stream.

However, three radiants are actually found in this region. No. 33,  $\alpha = 42.4^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +49.2^\circ$  No. 38,  $\alpha = 43.3^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +39.6^\circ$  and No. 54,  $\alpha = 46.0^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +45.3^\circ$ . For completeness No. 65,  $\alpha = 44.1^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +52.0^\circ$  might be added. The dates on which these were observed are as follows: 1901 Aug. <sup>8</sup> 7, 1903 Aug. // , 1904 Aug. // .

For group No. XLIII the limits given are  $\alpha = 42^\circ$  to  $51^\circ$ ,  $\delta = +39^\circ$  to  $+49^\circ$ . Therefore three of the above fall within them. In no other month have I been able to confirm the existence of a radiant within these limits.

A little analysis of the data in the "General Catalogue" will be helpful in understanding how such results were gotten. No less than 59 positions are there given. Of these only 15 were obtained from observations of a single night, therefore the remaining 44 are nearly worthless for the discussion of stationary radiation. For example (1) depends on 8 meteors seen within 24 days, (13) on 3 meteors within 9 days, (22) on 11 meteors in 8 days, (50) on 34 meteors during all October and November etc. Equally bad or worse examples could be quoted, these being taken at random. It should be plain to any observer of meteors or to any person familiar with their theory that such combinations are unsafe and generally misleading. Fortunately out of the 15 positions properly determined, 4 were observed by Zezioli and the resulting orbits calculated by Schiaparelli. His results follow:

D	Z+S	Date	L	$\alpha$	S	$\lambda$	$\Omega$	$\pi$	V
(2)	= (4)	Jan. 11	201°	47°	+40°	9° D	291°	131°	0.970
(14)	= (137)	Aug. 7	45	42	+48°	53 R	135°	341	0.949
(26)	= (142)	Aug. 11	49	47	+43	43 R	139	338	0.973
(4)	= (150)	Sept. 18	86	51	+39°	41 R	176	273	0.561

For purposes of comparison my own four orbits follow:

Or.	YEAR.		L	$\alpha$	S	$\lambda$	$\Omega$	$\pi$	V
(33)	1901	Aug. 8	43.5	42.4	+49.2	126.5	136.0	339.0	0.973
(38)	1901	" 9	47.5	43.8	+39.6	142.6	136.9	298.9	0.989
(54)	1903	" 11	48.9	46.0	+45.3	134.0	138.4	295.4	0.973
(65)	1904	" 13	49.7	44.1	+52.0	122.9	139.2	339.1	0.983

Referring to the four radiants of Zezioli above, we are forced to believe that one of the best of meteor observers plotted 4 radiants over limits of  $9^{\circ} \times 9^{\circ}$ , when they should have been near the mean position, if we try to obtain a stationary radiant here. But if doubt remains a mere glance at either of the above tables of elements must banish it completely.

That the radiants (137) and (142) of Zezioli are perhaps the same with

its position shifted in the 4 day interval is indeed probable. Also my orbits (32) and (65), and (38) and (54) are probably the same, their positions being slightly shifted between the dates. But that all 8 orbits can refer to the same stream is an obvious and mathematical impossibility.

As for the rest of the 15 radiants we had under discussion, (6) seems ~~splendidly~~ <sup>a fire-ball path</sup> determined by Denning from ~~50 meteors~~, (7), (34), (38), ~~(39)~~ are found by the same observer from 4 to 6 meteors each. ~~(52) by Heis from 18 meteors~~. For (14) and (43) no numbers are given. <sup>(6), (18),</sup> (20), (21), (23) are from duplicate observations of one meteor, and 30 are not very valuable for the question under consideration.

(6), (18),

Therefore of the whole 15 reliable ones, which include <sup>(6), (18),</sup> (20), (21), (23) also, 7 fall in August. It then follows that we find 8 radiants for all the other months scattered over the area  $9^{\circ}$  by  $10^{\circ}$  and it is on these mainly that the claim for an observed stationary radiant here must rest. It is of further interest to remark that these radiants were observed all the way from 1867 to 1897 inclusive.

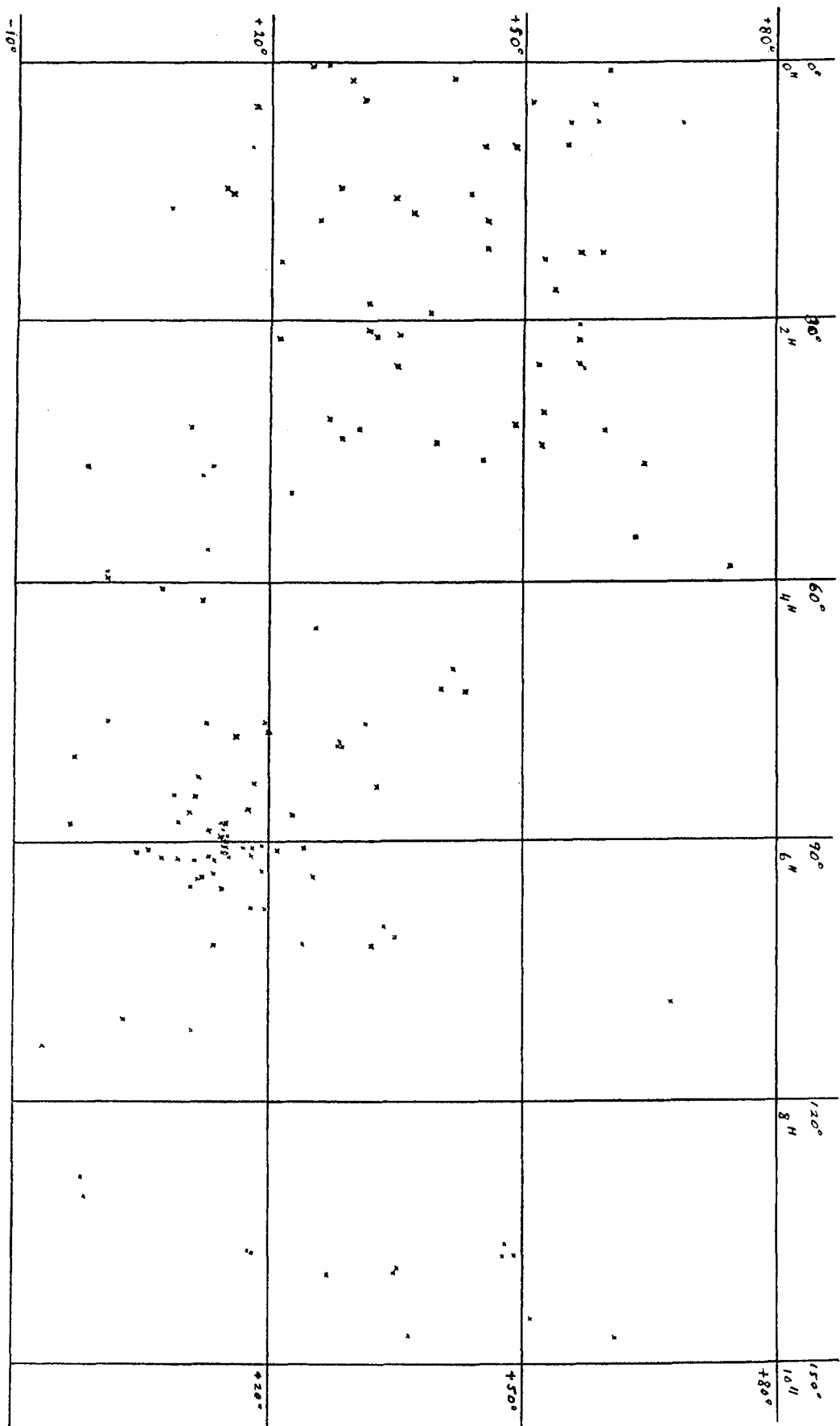


Fig. 2



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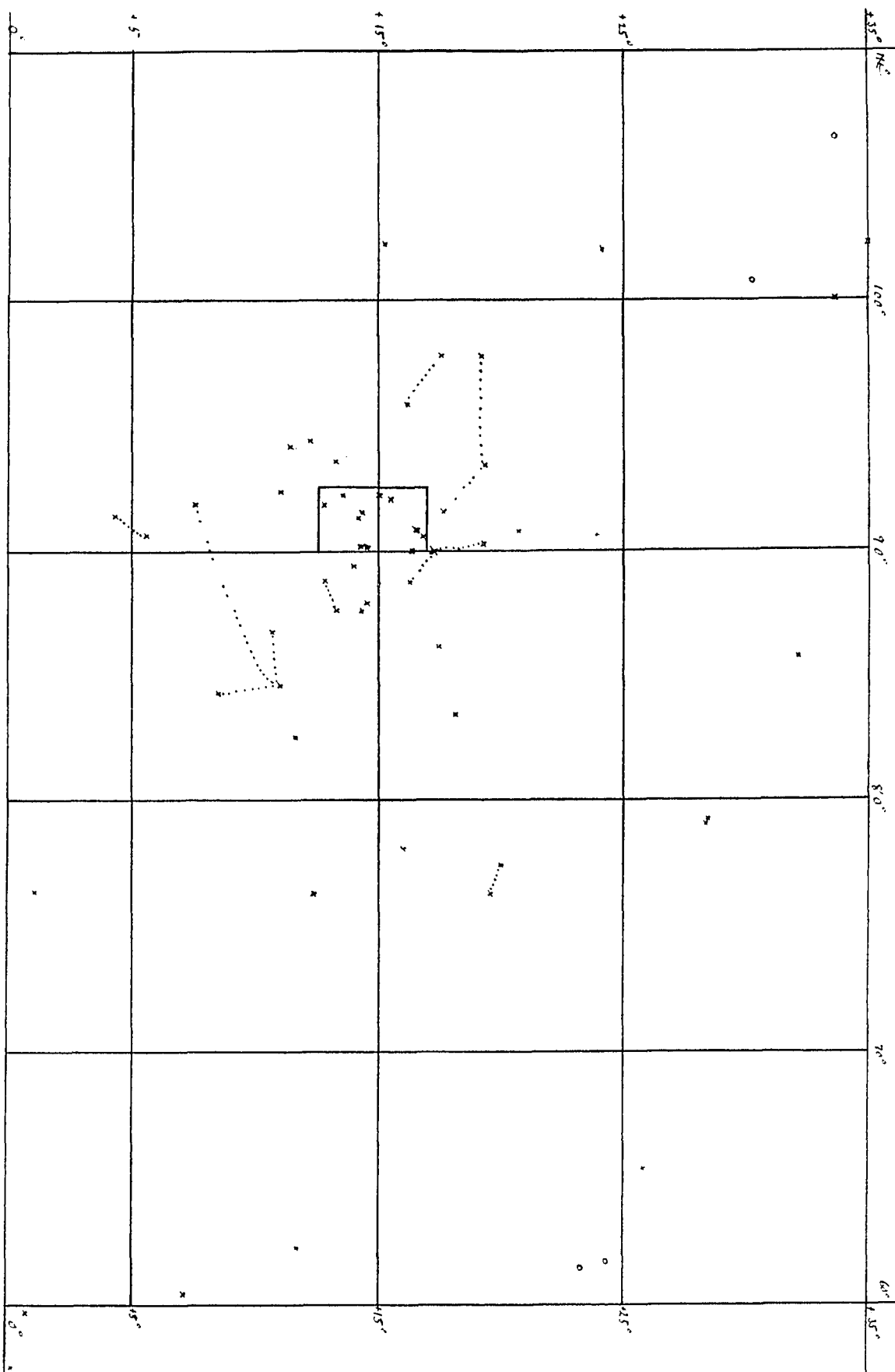


TABLE OF RADIANTS.

C. P. Olivier.

No.	G.M.T	1900 +	L	$\alpha$	S	$\delta$	$\delta'$	$\delta''$	$\delta'''$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	$\pi$	$\delta_0$	S
1	05	Jan.	180	1713	199.4	+476	1722	+5.00	1120	+744	928	10.53	0.915	1319	2813					3
2	09	Jan	1883	2088.9	17444	+84	1716	+54	1456	+80	1628	1520	0.217	1426	2956					5
3	09	Jan	1583	2089	2111	+2.67	2002	+320	1898	+536	1249	10.11	0.948	1408	2956					3
																				3
4	06	Feb.	1878	2974	2740	+332	2760	+565	20	+751	967	766	0.951	1815	253					3
																				L. wide.
5	04	Feb.	1575	2974	2770	+367	2812	+599	3425	+767	997	492	0.789	2271	279					4
																				"
6	03	July	2176	285	2718	+412	2732	+646	2244	+325	386	1036	0.760	3254	1183					4
7	09	July	2187	292	46	+314	176	+268	63	+446	1332	105	9.940	5307	1189					4
																				Compare 10?
8	09	July	2187	292	3489	+09	3509	+52	3237	-75	1626	1541	0.193	672	2989					4
9	03	July	2384	304	02	+249	106	+266	383	4	365	1393	0.782	3898	120.1					
10	03	July	2481	314	24	+294	147	+258	3590	+422	1331	1132	0.858	3474	12.1					5
																				Compare 7?
11	03	July	2481	314	158	+348	287	+258	262	+429	1370	936	1012	3012	12.1					4
																				Z 110.
12	03	July	2779	344	220	+414	210	+366	22	+596	1165	1055	0.943	3350	1240					4
13	03	July	2779	344	551	+513	308	+439	202	+726	1069	941	1.010	3122	1240					3
																				D, VII, 10, Z 101?
14	03	July	2779	344	2999	+490	3059	+667	241.8	+490	524	1078	0.921	3396	1240					7
15	03	July	2779	344	3079	+567	3491	+699	2388	+579	603	1029	0.965	3298	1240					4
																				Z 114.
16	03	July	2779	344	3377	-166	3332	-67	2949	-76	40.1	1682	0.042	1064	3040					5
																				8
																				Aquino.

No. G.M.T. 1900+ L a s e' e' f' i' n' v' w' π Ω

17 03 July 2779 344 3399 + 609 230 + 60.2 2507 + 792 813 964 1.003 3168 1240 11 D, CCLXIV, 3\*

18 03 2779 344 3504 + 488 163 + 467 3326 + 718 989 1059 0.939 3389 1240 4 Cornelia 24.

19 09 2791 350 154 + 154 20.1 + 8.2 94 + 135 165.1 1145 0.841 3536 1246

20 03 2879 354 222 + 595 478 + 456 790 + 729 1025 782 0.973 2814 1250 3 D, XV, 19\*

21 03 2879 354 2970 + 73 300.6 + 279 25.33 + 18.1 22.6 12.6 1.0663 172.1250 5

22 03 2879 354 3377 - 137 3343 - 40 2963 - 46 279 170.2 0.030 1054 3050 12 8 Aquarius,

23 03 2879 354 3529 + 214 3575 + 224 3271 + 319 1211 1415 0.388 476 1250 6

24 03 2879 354 3576 + 477 218 + 436 3533 + 698 1054 1033 0.962 3316 1250 4 Cornelia 18.

25 02 2882 355 3376 - 154 3334 - 56 2951 - 62 320 1682 0.042 1015 3051 9 8 Aquarius,

26 01 2885 359 103 + 456 30.1 + 373 21.4 + 621 117.2 965 1.002 3186 1255 5

27 07 Aug. 173 395 178 + 368 313 + 268 23.1 + 450 1340 1010 0.978 3408 1288 3

28 07 173 395 269 + 532 467 + 388 584 + 644 1143 846 0.993 2920 1288 4

29 07 475 421 158 + 458 367 + 346 294 + 579 1215 765 1.001 3246 1317 3

30 04 538 439 224 + 565 458 + 430 515 + 714 716 874 1.012 3083 1334 5

31 01 879 465 312 + 318 402 + 180 350 30.3 1493 995 0.986 3348 1360 2 Cornelia 37.

32 01 879 465 322 208 371 + 73 304 123 1673 1052 0.944 3464 1360 4

[G.F.P.]

[G.F.P.]

[G.F.P.]

$\frac{2}{3}N_0$	G.M.T.	1900+	L	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$\rho'$	$\epsilon'$	$\rho$	$\epsilon$	$z$	$\eta$	$v$	$\pi$	$N_0$	$\frac{2}{3}$
33	01 Aug.	8-79	465	424 + 492	556 + 312	270 + 520	1265	1015	0973	5390	1360	3	A.F. 14, 21	Z 137	
34	01	9 77	475	104 + 490	124 + 402	71 + 646	1101	1060	0937	3458	1369	6	D, VII, 20*, 21*		
35	01	9 77	475	149 + 279	248 + 198	63 + 316	1410	565	0770	0496	1369	3	D, XII, 5, 4*		
36	01	9 77	475	406 + 526	558 + 349	668 + 579	1205	796	0980	0960	1369	20	A.P. 14, 26 and 27?		
37	01	9 77	475	318 + 327	411 + 186	357 + 314	1480	1006	0980	3379	1369	3	Cn. 4, 6 and 31,		
38	01	1 77	475	438 + 396	532 + 219	582 + 364	1426	810	0989	0989	1369	3	D, XXXV, 3.		
39	01	9 77	475	3495 + 273	22 + 241	3230 + 379	978	384	0990	2136	1369	4			
40	05	157	473	290 + 385	410 + 248	352 + 418	1376	814	0991	0995	1368	4	D, XXV, 12*, 13*		
41	09	1 88	476	355 + 349	444 + 196	426 + 332	1468	938	1009	5246	1371	4	D, XXX, 11.		
42	09	9 88	476	414 + 263	470 + 98	465 + 167	1633	108	1013	3186	1371				
43	09	9 88	476	424 + 601	606 + 414	843 + 169	1088	763	0957	2897	1371	4	Z 139,		
44	02	10 82	482	11 + 601	354 + 523	3311 + 800	924	993	0985	3462	1371	4			
45	02	10 82	482	3279 + 290	3425 + 390	2885 + 177	577	1337	0324	4811	1377	3			
46	09	10 93	486	52 + 181	121 + 145	3454 + 212	1398	1459	0319	698	1381	3			
47	09	10 93	486	350 + 625	440 + 397	633 + 660	1132	839	1002	3058	1381	0	A.P. 10, 8,		
48	04	10 83	488	102 + 532	368 + 485	68 + 731	1029	1011	0976	5410	1382	3	D, VII, 23.		



$$f = \pi \cdot \mathcal{U} \cdot$$

[J.B.S.]

[illegible]





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[J.P.S.]

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No. G.M.T 1900. L S E' 4' 1' 2' 11' 52'

129 09 ~~02~~ 22.92 12.03 905 +18.1 905 -54 697 -83 1673 1390 0428 1273 294 8 } *pendine. Compare 125, 130.*

130 05 23.86 12.11 903 +19.3 903 -42 688 -64 1698 1400 0.394 1321 303 11 Compare 125, 125+129.

131 06 25.84 12.29 560 +12.6 566 -70 158 -73 246 1622 0.926 1865 320 4

132 06 25.84 12.29 790 +28.5 803 +5.3 514 +74 1584 1593 0.124 1706 2120 5 2.

133 06 25.84 12.29 862 +17.6 863 -58 610 -86 1627 1499 0.251 1517 320 1

134 06 25.84 12.29 919 +7.7 920 -57 684 -240 1431 1373 0.457 1266 320 6 Compare 98, 103+104,

135 06 25.84 12.29 1000 +33.7 984 +105 806 +168 1580 1293 0.576 1105 320 5

136 06 25.84 12.29 1020 +24.1 1010 +11 856 +18 1778 1436 0.643 1392 2120 6

137 06 26.86 12.34 1024 +14.3 1020 -36 865 -123 1648 1543 0.657 1216 330 5

138 06 26.86 12.39 1138 -68 1170 -280 688 -429 1222 1264 0.648 1059 330 4

139 01 ~~01~~ 18.84 1420 1023 +350 1003 +120 606 +168 1183 1608 0.107 1927 2313 4

140 01 13.84 1420 1090 +676 1000 +448 865 +508 1152 1211 0.725 1135 2313 4

141 01 13.84 1420 1106 +25 1118 -191 817 -293 1321 1388 0.430 1488 517 6

142 01 13.84 1420 1592 +526 1378 +400 1303 +670 1126 943 0.984 598 2313 4 Compare 148, 157,

143 01 13.84 1420 1694 +227 1612 +166 3554 +272 317 1195 0.779 1103 2313 4

144 03 14.84 1424 762 +310 781 +81 377 +87 321 1635 0.080 1987 2318 5

N <sup>o</sup>	DOE	L	a	S	L'	a'	L	A	2	7	4	π	Σ	-52			
45	03	96m.	1484	1424	944	+8	0	945	-154	600	-209	1109	225	0144	2765	516	4
46	07		1454	1431	1206	-20	1316	-200	1218	-336	1400	1206	0733	136	523	2	Compane 163.
147	09		1454	1431	1399	+348	1314	+183	1218	+307	1476	1076	0599	875	2323	4	Compane 176, 2167?
148	09		1484	1431	1550	+580	1385	+435	1276	+724	1070	944	0.993	612	2323	4	Compane 142, 157,
149	04		1488	1433	1378	+182	1348	+19	1287	+32	1767	1039	0932	803	2326	5	
150	04		1488	1433	1380	+492	1247	+314	1039	+507	1226	1133	0834	994	2325	5	Compane 158, 160,
151	04		1489	1433	1472	+608	1248	+441	868	+686	1024	1624	0898	2074	2326	5	
152	03		1583	1435	725	+405	761	+179	324	+181	432	<sup>1530</sup> <del>1170</del> 0203	<sup>17819</sup> 1057	2328	3	Compane 155,	
153	03		1583	1435	870	+228	872	-06	512	-07	249	1782	0001	2292	525	4	D, LX XV *
154	03		158	1485	1120	+108	1120	-110	892	-168	1530	1404	0402	536	528	4	
155	01		1581	1440	702	+415	744	+191	297	+186	402	1503	0242	1734	2332	4	Compane 152,
156	01		1587	1440	1373	+192	1340	+244	1270	+41	1749	1268	0633	120	2333		
157	01		1587	1440	1534	+509	1362	+374	1242	+624	1163	988	0966	708	2333	5	Compane 142, 148,
158	00		1584	1442	1388	+478	1254	+302	1058	+489	1246	1137	0829	1009	2335	2	Compane 150, 160,
159	01		1600	1442	1470	+365	1366	+218	1298	+369	1423	1009	0953	753	2335	5	
160	06		1682	1448	1370	+440	1240	+310	1112	+444	1222	1163	0747	1066	2341	3	Compane 150, 158,

No.	GMT	1900.	L	$\alpha$	$\delta$	$\ell'$	$\ell'$	$\ell$	$\ell$	$z$	$\eta$	$\eta'$	"	$\Delta\ell$	$\gamma$
161	06	May	1683	1448	78.6+290	800	+60	2479	164	222	1700850	2682	2341	7	D, LXVII, 26*
162	06		1682	1448	10.10+349	992	+118	671	+157	1283	1596	0.121	1932	2341	5
163	06		1683	1448	1307	-12	13	355	-187	1241	-314	1430	1200	0741	4 Compare 146,
164	06		1682	1448	1400+267	1301	+106	1192	+177	1428	1499	0249	1738	2341	4 Z,
165	03		1867	1465	954+109	954	-124	602	-158	1058	1650	079	2684	2336	4
166	10	May	4.97	313.3	340-	34	3246	+6	13498	+112	1662	500	0677	1551	44.1 61 $\eta$ Aquarids.
167	10	May	673	3154	3377	-06	3392	+82	3560	+130	1632	1206	07	1483	460 25 $\eta$ Aquarids. [G.H.]
168	10	May	1199	3201	3420	-06	3432	+65	3595	+105	1667	521	0630	1551	508 5+ $\eta$ Aquarids.
169	10	Aug.	1.43	397	146	+103	198	+93	59	+149	1623	122	00935	133	1292 3
170	10		1.73	397	167	+80	186	+08	45	+112	1785	124	70686	185	1292 6
171	10		69	445	101	+194	170	+138	3566	+216	1497	133	20538	304	1340 3
172	10		67	445	304	+564	510	+447	628	+674	1114	829	0948	2998	1340 5 D, XXXII, 5, Compare 175
173	10		1186	443	7.2	+589	380	+474	43	+753	1014	943	0487	3373	1388 2 Compare 51, 57,
174	10		1186	443	76	+686	481	+566	2304	+758	758	704	1013	3196	1388 3
175	10		1186	443	358	+566	546	+396	636	+659	1134	840	1003	3067	1388 4 Compare 55, 175,
176	07	May	1488	1426	1375	+350	1310	+153	1215	308	1476	1074	0400	867	2319 3 Compare 147, Z 17322

# UNCERTAIN RADIANTS.

1900+ L α S  $\frac{S}{L}$  NOTES

05	Jan	180	191.3	175.9	+ 37.5	4	D CXXXVIII	?
09	"	18.83	208.9	198.2	- 4.0	4	D CLVIII	?
04	Apr	18.75	297.4	279.1	+ 30.8	3		
04	"	18.75	297.4	293.6	+ 38.0		D CCXXIV	?
01	Aug.	5.79	46.5	11.4	+ 15.6	3	2 on Aug. 3.	
01	"	7.77	47.5	12.2	+ 26.6	5		
08	O.I.	18.73	116.5	43.3	+ 3.8	3	D XXXVIII, 6, 7	
08	"	18.73	116.5	106.5	+ 33.8	2	Z161 ?	
04	"	18.81	116.4	100.8	+ 30.3	2	D LXXXIX	
03	"	18.83	115.7	61.7	+ 24.4	2	D LXIII, 13*	
03	"	14.82	116.6	48.2	- 4.7	3	D XLI, 5	
03	"	14.82	116.6	61.5	+ 23.3	2	D LXIII, 13*	
06	"	25.84	122.9	64.1	- 16.3	3		
00	Nov	15.95	142.3	12.5	+ 44.0	3		
01	"	15.84	142.0	97.5	+ 16.5	3		
01	"	15.84	142.0	133.4	+ 6.2	3		
03	"	14.84	142.4	118.4	+ 53.8	3		
03	"	14.84	142.4	147.7	+ 33.6	2		
01	"	15.87	144.0	135.7	- 4.7			
01	"	15.87	144.0	140.2	+ 71.6	2		
00	"	15.84	144.2	92.2	+ 24.0	4	Nov. 13, 1 seen, Nov. 15, 1 seen.	
00	"	15.84	144.2	93.8	+ 44.0	3		
00	"	15.84	144.2	138.4	+ 34.3	3	Nov. 13, 1 seen.	
09	"	16.00	144.2	120.9	+ 11.8	3		
09	"	16.00	144.2	130.9	+ 8.5	3		
06	"	16.83	144.8	114.2	- 9.0	3		

1899 Nov. 24.

20.2 + 37.0 8  
23.6 + 29.9 6  
25.2 + 40.8 5

} Beihids. 75 meteors seen in all between  
" " and " "

# TABLE OF INCLINATIONS AND PERIHELIA

INCLINATIONS OF ORBITS.																				TOTAL	
$i_e$		$0^\circ$	$10^\circ$	$20^\circ$	$30^\circ$	$40^\circ$	$50^\circ$	$60^\circ$	$70^\circ$	$80^\circ$	$90^\circ$	$100^\circ$	$110^\circ$	$120^\circ$	$130^\circ$	$140^\circ$	$150^\circ$	$160^\circ$	$170^\circ$	$180^\circ$	$i_e$
BEFORE COMBINATION	0	3	6	5	3	2	3	3	3	2	8	14	17	16	12	20	16	33	12	175	
AFTER COMBINATION	0	1	5	5	1	2	3	3	2	7	11	15	14	11	14	14	22	9	139		
ZEZIOLI'S	4	22	9	17	15	18	22	12	3	23	7	13	8	5	3	3	2	0	159		

LONGITUDES OF PERIHELIA																																			
$\varphi$		$0^\circ$	$10^\circ$	$20^\circ$	$30^\circ$	$40^\circ$	$50^\circ$	$60^\circ$	$70^\circ$	$80^\circ$	$90^\circ$	$100^\circ$	$110^\circ$	$120^\circ$	$130^\circ$	$140^\circ$	$150^\circ$	$160^\circ$	$170^\circ$	$180^\circ$	$\varphi$														
BEFORE COMBINATION	2	3	1	2	2	4	6	6	6	13	20	4	6	4	5	3	5	4	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	2	1	4	6	4	7	8	15	7	5
AFTER COMBINATION	2	3	1	2	2	1	4	4	4	6	12	4	6	4	5	3	5	4	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	2	1	4	6	4	7	5	10	6	5
ZEZIOLI'S	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	5	2	4	2	2	3	4	4	5	4	6	3	8	7	9	3	6	10	5	10	11	5	12	10	5	9	7

# MAGNITUDES OF METEORS.

YEAR.	>0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	<6	—	TOTAL.
1898		1								119	120
1899	0	1	10	12	4	7	1	1	0	101	137
1900	21	2	41	54	59	39	31	7	0	152	436
1901	10	14	46	96	128	116	51	15	0	50	526
1902	2	11	19	44	91	51	12	2	0	12	244
1903	28	33	71	122	268	166	34	2	0	7	731
1904	12	24	101	125	273	170	48	7	0	27	787
1905	9	10	27	45	123	106	33	4	0	13	369
1906	15	6	27	52	111	107	30	22	2	3	375
1907	8	9	15	27	64	95	31	8	0	2	258
1908	5	2	10	20	27	34	14	1	0	13	126
1909	15	16	37	117	363	416	197	27	5	30	7213
1910	10	5	16	71	181	266	104	16	0	7	676
1900 } 1908 }	104	110	357	595	1342	884	284	68	2	309	3552
1909 } 1910 }	25	21	53	188	44	676	301	43	5	37	1889
Others } 1898-9 }	0	0	3	14	14	12	12	4	10	47 } 220 }	373



# MAGNITUDES OF METEORS. PERCENTAGE.

(27)

YEAR.	>0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	<6
1900 }	03.1	03.0	10.3	16.5	32.3	25.0	08.0	01.9	00.1
1905 }									
1909 }	01.3	01.1	02.9	10.2	29.4	36.5	16.3	02.3	00.3
1910 }									

## COLORS OF METEORS.

YEAR.	RED.	Orange.	Yellow.	Green.	Blue.	Purple.	White.	TOTAL.
1898				1				1
1899	14		1	18	1		1	35
1900	81		13	53	5		10	162
1901	96	67	15	77	2		27	284
1902	38	40	1	32	4			115
1903	109	178	17	89	6	4	67	469
1904	40	27	58	24	3	7	30	239
1905	32	2	28	11	2	1	1	77
1906	42	15	17	17		2	17	110
1907	46	5	12	7	3		8	81
1908	20	6	2	2	1		6	37
1909	120	3	96	36	4	1	16	276
1910	51	3	50	11	1	3		119
TOTAL	738	246	310	383	32	18	183	2010
PERCENT.	36.7	17.2	15.4	19.1	2.6	0.9	9.1	100.0

# Duration of Flight With regard to Color.

Seconds	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	5.0
Red	4	11	60	101	75	34	12	12	4	11		5	1		5			1	3	4	1			1
Orange	2		57	103	40	25	5	7		8		2			3	1		3	2	1	1			
Yellow		2	14	58	18	12	1	1		2		1						1						
Green		2	24	54	38	28	6	2	1	8		1			3			1	5					
Blue			2	1	3	1		2		1					2	1								
Purple	1	1	4	4	1	3			1			1						1						
White	1	8	33	17	10	1		3	1	2		3												

## Seconds

Red	3	3	43	60	22	12	3	3		2		2		1				1	1	1	1			
Orange				3	1	1			1	1														
Yellow	1	32	56	30	7	7		2				1							1	2				
Green	3	5	15	5	3	3		2		4		2		1	2			1		1				
Blue					1	1									1				1					
Purple				2								1												
White			4	5	1	1							1						1					

## Means

	1902-08	1909+10	1902-08	1909+10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10	1902-10
Red	0.557	0.479	0.468	0.414	0.532	0.503	0.451	0.475	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.491
Orange	0.529	0.600	0.445	0.470	0.531	0.688	0.452	0.54	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679	0.679
Yellow	0.474	0.464	0.434	0.414	0.469	0.448	0.423	0.41	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446
Green	0.605	0.661	0.489	0.63	0.486	0.37	0.616	0.220	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488
Blue	1.053	1.920	0.570	1.0	0.550	2	1.245	2.0	0.567	12	0.678	12	0.678	12	0.678	12	0.678	12	0.678	12	0.678	12	0.678	12
Purple	0.671	1.000	0.482	1.1	0.400	2	0.745	18	0.469	13	0.276	13	0.276	13	0.276	13	0.276	13	0.276	13	0.276	13	0.276	13
White	0.506	0.569	0.478	0.651	0.514	0.92	0.484	0.88	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030
	0.404	1.319	0.398	1.313																				

Δ

# EXCEPTIONAL METEORS.

Year	Sta. Meteors	Var. Mggn.	2nd. Path.	Curved Path.	Rem. Mggn.	Heavy Mggn.	Heavy Mggn.
1898	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
1899	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
1900	0	1	2	3	-	2	7
1901	0	2	3	5	2	1	20
1902	1	-	-	1	-	1	10
1903	1	1	1	2	2	4	50
1904	1	3	5	1	-	-	51
1905	0	-	2	-	-	-	21
1906	0	-	-	1	2	1	24
1907	0	1	-	-	1	2	12
1908	1	1	2	3	-	-	4
1909	0	1	-	4	3	4	66
1910	0	2	1	-	1	2	32
TOTAL	4	13	16	17	11	17	297

### Explanation of Tables.

**Table of Radiants:** This table contains the parabolic elements calculated for the 175 radiants, which were considered good enough to justify the computations, and which did not belong to the Perseids or Leonids. The columns give from left to right: (1) serial number of radiant, (2) Greenwich Mean Time of observations, (3) longitude of the meteoric apex (4) right ascension of radiant (5) declination, (6) apparent longitude, (7) apparent latitude, (8) true longitude, (9) true latitude, (10) inclination to the ecliptic of parabolic orbit, (11) the angle between the true position of the radiant point and the Sun, (12) perihelion distance in terms of Earth's distance from Sun, (13) longitude of perihelion, (14) longitude of ascending node, (15) number of meteors from which radiant was deduced, (16) notes and references.

In (16), when the radiant was observed by anyone other than myself, the observer's initials are enclosed in square brackets. Other references are as follows: A.P. --- refers to "Annales de l'Observatoire d'Athènes", Vol. 111, with page and number of the radiant on page.

D, --- refers to W.F. Denning's "General Catalogue of Meteor Radiants," giving the group and number in group. An asterick following the number means that several nights' observations were used by observers referred to.

Z, --- refers to Schiaparelli's corrected orbits, deduced from Zezioli's observations, giving the number of the orbit in his work.

**Uncertain Radiants:** This table gives 26 uncertain radiants. The columns give from left to right: (1) Greenwich Mean Time, (2) longitude of meteoric apex, (3) right ascension of radiant, (4) declination, (5) number of meteors from which radiant was deduced, (6) notes and references.

Table of Inclinations and Perihelia: The first of these tables gives for each 10° of inclinations three series of results. The first row contains the inclinations of all 175 orbits, just as taken from Table of Radiants. The second row gives the distribution after allowance has been made for the same meteor stream reappearing. The third row gives the distribution as taken from Schiaparelli's orbits, based on Zezioli's observations.

The second table gives the longitudes of perihelia, in three exactly similar rows.

Table of Magnitudes of Meteors: This table gives the number of meteors of each magnitude observed in every year. Below are three combinations, first all meteors seen from 1900 to 1908 inclusive, second all meteors seen in 1909 and 1910, third for all other years.

Percentage: This table gives the percentage of each magnitude in the first and second combination just mentioned. Of course no account is taken of meteors whose magnitudes are not given, in this table.

Table of Colors of Meteors: This table is self-explanatory.

Table of Duration of Flight etc.,: Two tables are given under this head.

x The first is divided into two periods, namely 1902 to 1908 inclusive, 1909 and 1910. In each portion the numbers of meteors of each color are divided up to show how many of a given duration of visibility were seen.

The second table gives the mean visibility for each color divided as follows: (1) all meteors 1902--1908, (2) No. of meteors, (3) all meteors 1909 + 1910, (4) No. of meteors, (5) meteors whose length of visibility was not over 1.0 in 1902--1908 (6) No. of these meteors, (7) same for 1909 + 1910 (8) No. of these meteors, (9) all meteors 1902 to 1910 inclusive, (10) their number; (11) meteors not over 1.0, (12) their number, (13) difference between (9) and (11).

**Table of Exceptional Meteors:** This gives the peculiar meteors seen in each year under the following headings: (1) Stationary meteors, (2) Meteors whose magnitude varied, (3) Meteors with irregular paths, (4) Meteors with curved paths (5) Very remarkable trains left, (6) Meteors which certainly had hazy nuclei, (7) Numbers of trains recorded as being visible at least 2.0 seconds.

This table is only partially correct because undoubtedly not all peculiar meteors seen were so recorded.

### Deductions from Tables.

When my inclinations and perihelia are examined, they at once show certain marked maxima. As to the inclinations very many more are retrograde than direct with a strong maximum at  $160^{\circ}$ --- $170^{\circ}$ . This is worthy of attention when we remember that most of the short period comets move with direct motion. However, Zexioli's orbits show more of direct than retrograde motion. I can, at present, only explain this difference in our results by pointing out that while his observations were made throughout the entire year, most of these were made between July 20 and Nov. 20, and therefore are not well enough distributed to be strictly comparable with mine. These were also generally made after midnight. As to the perihelia two maxima are shown, one about  $110^{\circ}$  and the other at  $320^{\circ}$ . This last agrees fairly well with Zexioli, but no maximum near the first position is shown by his orbits.

In the results from the tables of magnitudes the most important is that which shows that during 1900 to 1908 inclusive, when observations were made mostly in Virginia, at the Leander McCormick Observatory, meteors of the third magnitude were the most numerous by far. However, during 1909 and 1910, where observations were made in California, at the Lick Observatory, meteors of the fourth magnitude were ~~greatly~~ <sup>greatly</sup> in the majority. This proves conclusively, since the numbers are quite comparable, that there is every reason to believe we would find meteors of the fifth magnitude, and so on indefinitely, most numerous could we get a sky as much clearer than the Lick, as the Lick is clearer than the Virginia sky.

The series representing meteor magnitudes is similar to that for stars, only the factor seems less than 2.5.

The question of the length of visibility of meteors, with regard to their color appeared a sufficiently interesting question to investigate. Consequently the two tables on P. were formed for this purpose.

It was not until 1902 that this particular datum was observed, which explains why meteors seen previously are not included.

To understand the results some remarks are necessary. In the first place few meteors whose magnitude was below the third had color recorded for them. Yellow and orange were used loosely, and could often have been interchanged. Blue, purple and to a lesser extent green meteors are difficult to distinguish from white meteors, unless bright or slow. Indeed very few blue or purple meteor were seen. Finally white practically means no color could be detected, and as a rule was not entered on the observing book, which will explain why there are so few white meteors in the lists.

The first part of the table merely gives the data for forming the second. In this latter the meteors are studied in three classes, each with two subdivisions. All those observed 1902-to 1906 inclusive form one class, those observed 1902 and 1910 at the Lick Observatory form the second, and these are combined to form the third class and give the definitive results.

Each class is subdivided to give the means for all meteors and then the means for those whose visibility did not exceed 1.0 second. This last is the column which should be studied to obtain results, because any meteor whose visibility is over 1.0 second is an unusual one. The results are rather surprising, though well marked.

Yellow meteors have the shortest, orange and red the next and equal times of visibility, finally green and white almost equal and the longest.

Blue and purple are also visible a longer time, but the results depend on too few meteors to have much weight. It is noteworthy that the other



columns, in general, bear out the results deduced from the last. Taking as a first assumption that meteors of all colors enter the atmosphere with the same mean velocity and become visible at the same mean height, then we must conclude that yellow meteors are composed of materials which are more inflammable than red and orange meteors, and these in turn more so than white or green. It may be objected that the error of observation is so great that the differences in the column referred to mean little or nothing. While it is true enough that for any single meteor the error is large, yet when the means of several hundred are taken, as in this case, I believe the accidental errors are largely eliminated.

Finally the mean values for meteors whose color was unrecorded in 1902--1908 are given, merely for comparison. As most of these were of the fainter magnitudes than the third, it is quite obvious that they should in general be seen a less time than brighter meteors, as indeed the table proves.

The exceptional meteors call for no further comment here than to say that my observations give fewer per thousand than is usually the case. As there were 297 trains of 2.0 seconds duration, or over, it seems that about one meteor in 20 leaves such a one. A full description of all these exceptional phenomena will probably be published later in another paper.

### Condensed Summary of Results.

This summary is intended to give in a very few words what appear to be the main results deduced in this paper.

(1) Stationary radiants appear <sup>to be</sup> rare if they exist at all.

x (2) Proof that Halley's Comet and the  $\eta$  Aquarids are intimately connected.

(3) The change in position of the Perseid radiant, from day to day, is fully confirmed.

(4) The Crionids do not seem to have a stationary radiant.

(5) The radiant of the Leonids show no appreciable change of position from day to day.

x (6) The existence of the so-called  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  Perseids, except in August, is not confirmed.

(7) By observing in a clearer atmosphere meteors of the fourth magnitude, are in the majority, while formerly more of the third magnitude were seen.

(8) Yellow meteors have the shortest time of visibility, red and orange somewhat longer times, while green and white are seen longest.

(9) Peculiar meteors are not so common as thought.