

CELESTIAL OBJECT MAY BE A COMET

What may be the Tempel-Swift comet has been sighted by M. Delporte, a European astronomer, according to a dispatch received from Copenhagen, it was announced by Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory.

The new visitor is described as an object of the tenth magnitude, so that it is too faint to be seen without the aid of a telescope, and is located in the constellation of Pisces, the Fishes. It will be necessary to arise early to see it, however, as this constellation does not rise above the eastern horizon until about 3.00 A.M.

The Tempel-Swift comet has a period of about five and one half years. As it was expected back this year, and, according to the calculations of its orbit, should be in approximately the position of the new object, Dr. Shapley thinks it possible that it is the comet.

MELONS FEWER; PRICES HIGHER

Only five watermelons will grow this year where six grew before, according to the estimates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The market will not be glutted as it was last year, and all melons will taste better because they will cost more. Preliminary estimates show that 125,660 acres of land will be planted in watermelon by the time the season is over. Although this is the smallest acreage in many years no real shortage is expected.

FISH POISONING PLANTS PROVE DEADLY TO INSECTS

That the age old custom of intoxicating or poisoning fish so that they may be easily caught, as practiced in Madagascar, India, Ceylon, the Ivory Coast, Central and South America, and other tropical parts of the world, may be the forerunner of a very beneficial discovery for the same peoples, is the prediction of Monsieur Auguste Chevallier, in presenting his recent findings on the subject to the Academy of Sciences in Paris.

For many centuries the natives of these lands have been in the habit of using certain plants for capturing fish. The method of using these narcotic growths to catch fish is by taking the leaves and bruising them in a mortar. Thus crushed, they are put in sacks, which are thrown in the ponds where fish are known to exist. Several natives go out and stir up the water around this "belt" of narcotic material, while the others chase the fish toward the poisoned area.

As the fish pass through the poisoned zone, they become intoxicated or are killed, and float to the surface, where it becomes only necessary to gather them in. So far as has been discovered, this poisoning does not make the fish harmful in any manner to the natives.

As these plants drop out of use one way, they seem to be turning toward another and even more beneficial service to mankind. A chemical called "tephrosine" has been isolated from the tephrose group of plants by M. Hanriot