

## WOLF'S COMET DISCOVERED BY GERMAN ASTRONOMER

Wolf's comet, which visits the neighborhood of the earth every eight years, was sighted on Monday, July 13, by J. Stobbe, astronomer at the Bergedorf Observatory near Hamburg, Germany. This information was received by cable from the international bureau at Copenhagen, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory has announced.

When observed, the comet was in the constellation of Pegasus, just west of the "Great Square", in right ascension 22 hours, 58 minutes and 12 seconds, and declination 24 degrees, 16 seconds north of the equator. It is slowly moving towards the southeast. As this constellation does not rise at present until late in the evening, and is not directly south until 3:00 a.m., astronomers must either get up early or stay up late to see it. Not many will be able to observe it at present, however, for it is of the 15th magnitude, so faint that only the very largest telescopes are capable of revealing it.

It will become brighter as it gets closer to the earth, but it is doubtful whether it will become bright enough to be visible to the unaided eye, even in the fall when it reaches perihelion and comes nearest the sun. Previously it approached within 149,000,000 miles of the earth. Since its last visit, however, it passed near Jupiter, a rather rash thing for a comet to do, as it was moved out of its former orbit by the great gravitational attraction of that planet, and now it will not come as close.

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BRITISH CANCER DISCOVERY OFFERS NO PRESENT CURE

The success of the British scientists in cultivating, observing, and photographing the organism that causes a malignant cancer in chickens is of great scientific interest, but it will not help any one now ill with cancer, according to Dr. Erwin F. Smith, senior plant pathologist of the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry, and an authority on cancerous growths in plants and animals.

In a recent visit to London, Dr. Smith visited the laboratory of Dr. J. E. Barnard, one of the three British scientists whose work is creating so much interest. There he saw tubes of clear serum containing the invisible infectious organism. Then he observed the living organism dancing about in a drop of serum under a specially constructed microscope, and also photomicrographs of this germ that is so small that it cannot be seen under the highest powers of any ordinary microscope and that will pass through the pores of filters which will not let through the smallest known bacteria.

"But this organism which causes a malignant tumor in chickens is related only very indirectly to human cancer," says Dr. Smith. "Dr. Petyon Rous, of the Rockefeller Institute, who discovered and studied this chicken tumor in the United States, determined beyond question its malignancy, and also that it could be produced in chickens in the absence of any tumor cells. He took portions of the malignant tumor and killed the cells in various ways, by grinding, by freezing, by drying for months, and with these dead cells he could still produce tumors when they were introduced into susceptible chickens. He found also that the cause of the disease is a filter passer, that it is so small that it will pass through the pores of medium Berkefeld filters which will not let through the smallest known bacteria. Nevertheless, this clear filtrate would produce