the right amount. All that is more or less than the exact amount required, reduces the temperature so much.

In ordinary furnaces, it has been estimated that much more than half the heat is lost by this one item alone. If the air passes freely in above the coal, twice as much goes in as is burned; if it all passes in under the grate, then only one-third the heat is given off, as only carbonic oxide escapes.

Probably the advantages with crude petroleum or with coal, of the water process, would be of still greater value.*

SAMUEL J. WALLACE.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

OBSERVATIONS OF DOUBLE STARS made at the United States Naval Observatory by ASAPH HALL, Professor of Mathematics, U. S. N. Rear Admiral Rogers, U. S. N., Superintendent, Washington, 1881.

In introducing this work Professor Hall gives some very interesting details respecting the methods used in making observations at the Naval Observatory and the condition of the instruments.

He also presents his reasons for undertaking these observations and indicates the scope of the present work.

He states that his regular observations with the 26-inch refractor of the Naval Observatory were begun in the spring of 1875, the instrument at that time being in charge of Professor Simon Newcomb. "Professor Newcomb gradually withdrew from observing with this instrument, which came under my direction sometime in July of the same year. The micrometrical measurements which had been made by Professors Newcomb and Holden were chiefly of the satellites of Uranus and Neptune, and the discussion of these measurements of the two outer satellites of Uranus brought out very clearly what had been indicated before by Von Asten; viz, the existence of a large constant difference in the angles of position measured by Mr. Otto Struve, director of the Imperial Observatory at Pulkowa. As it is our intention to repeat the measurements of the satellites of Uranus and Neptune after a few years, and as it seemed probable that similar differences might exist in the observations of double stars, it occurred to me that the best way of comparing and uniting the observations of different astronomers would be for each one to observe the same double stars at nearly the same time. I wrote to Struve proposing that this should be done, and that he should select the list of stars. In reply he informed me that such a series of observations was already in progress between himself and Baron Dembowski, and after adding to the list of stars a few of greater distances, this list and an account of the proposed work were published by Struve in the "Vierteljahrsschrift der Astronomischen Gesellschaft." Band xi, p. 227.†

It was understood that each observer should avoid all knowledge of the observations of other astronomers, in order that his work might be done independently, and in my own case this rule has been carefully adhered to. But now nearly four years have elapsed since Struve's publication, and it is probable that all the astronomers engaged in this work have collected such a number of observations that the publication of my own results will not influence the independence of theirs. Moreover, the end of the year 1879 seems to be a favorable epoch for publishing my observations of double stars made before 1880, since I hope to make some changes which in the future will enable me to observe under conditions more favorable to accuracy.

I have therefore collected and revised all my observations of double stars, and the results are given in the following pages. In order to make this collection complete I have concluded the few observations made in the year 1863 with the equatorial of 9.6 inches aperture. The whole number of observations is 1614.

It will not be necessary to give any general description of the 26-inch refractor made by Alvan Clark and Sons for the Naval Observatory, since such descriptions can be found in the annual volumes of the Observatory for 1873 and 1874. It will be sufficient to say that the form of the mounting adopted by the makers for this Equatorial is such that the instrument, notwithstanding its great size, is handled with ease; and the harp-shaped piece that supports the polar axis is very convenient when observing near the zenith. Generally the instrument is pointed on a star by means of what are called the "rough circles." These circles are the edges of the hour and declination circles, which were painted white, and then divided by lines of black paint, the hour circle into spaces of ten minutes of time and the declination circle into degrees. This method of pointing is usually accurate enough to find the object, but as the painting was not well done errors as great as 15′ to 20′ could be made in some parts of the rough declination circle. An accurate reading for the position could be made by means of the finely divided circles, but this involves considerable time and trouble. On account of the delay in the observations which would be caused in making the change, and of the natural inertia in getting rid of a poor thing to which one has become accustomed, this defective circle for the declination was used until June, 1879, when the circle was painted white and divided again under the care of Mr. Gardner, the instrument maker of the Observatory. The settings are now much more accurate and give but little trouble, and the saving of time is very great. It is possible that a few cases may be found where, on account of an erroneous setting in declination, I have observed a different object from the one supposed.

The ease and rapidity with which observations can be made with a filar micrometer depend largely on the performance of the driving-clock. The accuracy of the observations also is in a measure dependent on this performance, but patience and skill on the part of the observer will in a good degree make up for a poor performance of the clock. The motive power of our driving-clock comes from a small water-wheel which is driven by water drawn from the Potomac water pipes. At first the water was applied directly to the conical pendulum, but the pressure of the water was so variable that weights attached to an endless cord (Huygen's loop), were placed between the water-wheel and the pendulum by Professor Newcomb. When this had been done the performance of the clock is said to have been tolerable; but in the autumn of 1875 it became very troublesome, and the observer was frequently annoyed by the stopping of the clock. This trouble continued and became worse until July, 1876, when the clock was dismounted by Mr. Gardner and myself. The lower end of the shaft of the conical pendulum had been given a conical shape, and had rested in a conical cup. The friction and heat had been so great that the lower end of this shaft had become very rough and twisted to a gimlet shape, thus stopping the clock. The bearing of the shaft was changed and made of a plane agate surface, the lower end of the shaft being rounded to a slightly curved surface. The friction of the upright shaft of the water-wheel was also diminished by clamping a set of friction wheels to this shaft and letting them play on a horizontal iron surface. The weights on the Huygen's loop were changed for cups carrying shot. With an average pressure of the water, and the machinery well oiled, these

* This superiority of the non-luminous combustion for heating was discovered by Professor Henry. He says: "With this arrangement the light of the flame was increased, while the time of bringing the water to the boiling point was also commensurably increased, thus conclusively showing that the increase of light was at the expense of the diminution of the temperature."

† Mittheilung über unternommene Beobachtungsreihen zur Vergleichung von Mikrometer messungen. 1876, Anfang Juni. OTTO STRUVE.

weights are $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, but the weights can be varied to suit the resistance and the pressure by changing the shot. Since these changes the performance of the clock has been tolerably good. Still this clock needs much care, and being dependent on an unsteady pressure of water a delay in the observations sometimes occurs. The great length of the telescope, which exposes it to the action of the wind, is also a hindrance to the steady driving of the clock.

The difficulty in turning the dome, of about 42 feet diameter, has increased. This difficulty is caused probably by the uneven settling of the supporting walls, and the bulging of the dome in the direction of the slit. The labor of turning the dome through a revolution is so great that lists of north and south objects are prepared beforehand by the observer in order to avoid as much as possible the turning of the dome.

After some practice, and on becoming familiar with the instrument and micrometer, my manner of observing a double star has been as follows: In order to measure the angle of position the two wires are separated a convenient distance and the stars are placed between them. The position-circle is turned by the hand until both stars appear midway between the wires, and then the circle is read. The light having been taken out of the micrometer, the wires are turned thirty or forty degrees forward and backward several times before the light is thrown on the wires again for the purpose of making the settings of the circle as independent as possible, and another reading is made. Generally four readings of the position-circle are taken. Then this circle is turned 90° from the mean of the readings and the double distance is measured. First the stars are bisected by the wires and the micrometer is read; then the wires are reversed and the stars are bisected again. The wires are then restored to their original position and another double distance is measured. Two such distances are generally observed. An estimated value of the angle of position is always recorded, as well as the sidereal time of the observation, and also an estimate of the weight of the observation. This weight depends simply on the condition of the images of the stars, and the numbers **1** to **5** are used for expressing the weights; **1** denoting a very poor condition of the images, **3** an average condition, and **5** a perfect condition. I have very rarely observed double stars when the images were so poor as to be given the weight **1**. As far as possible I have avoided all knowledge of the angles and distances observed by other astronomers. In my observing-list these quantities are omitted, and no comparison with other observations is made until my own observations of a star are completed. It is possible, therefore, that in some cases my angles may differ by a multiple of a quadrant from those observed elsewhere.

I have omitted observations of color and of magnitude. These observations have now become a specialty, and such observations as I could make would not do much more perhaps than tend to introduce confusion. In the case of stars observed by the Struves, to which most of my observations belong, I have adopted their magnitudes. In most cases these magnitudes are brighter than those of the scale to which I have been accustomed; thus what the Struves would call a 7th or 8th magnitude I would call an 8th or a 9th.

Very few of the observations have been made in the twilight, which offers the best conditions for observing double stars, since, the observer residing at a distance from the observatory, it has not been convenient to do this.

With such a large objective great changes occur in the appearance of the stars during a single night. Generally so long as rapid changes of temperature are going on the performance of the object-glass is not good. But on a few nights of the year, when all the atmospheric conditions are favorable, the performance of the glass is excellent, and its separating power is all that could be desired. Usually ruddy and reddish stars are the most difficult to observe, a result which may be caused by the figure of the objective. After having been in use two years the form of the lenses seemed to have undergone a slight change, and in the beginning of May, 1876, the surfaces of the flint lens were refigured by Mr. Alvan Clark and his son, Mr. Alvan G. Clark. This is the only change that has been made in the objective. On a single occasion water collected between the lenses, and they were taken out, cleaned by Mr. Gardner, and returned to their cell with very little trouble.

Until March, 1878, all the observations were made with my left eye; but having used my eyes very much during the preceding year, and having done a good deal of computing by gaslight, my eyes became weakened. In March, 1878, while observing the stars in the Trapezium of Orion with a field illumination which was very unsteady, my left eye suddenly became bloodshot. After a rest of a week the eye resumed its natural appearance, but on observing again the blood reappeared in the eye. I then began to use my right eye, and have used it since in most of the observations. From a number of trials I think that this change of eyes has produced only a small change in my habit of observing an angle of position. Still it is possible that some systematic difference in the angles may exist on account of this change, as there was at first some awkwardness in observing with my right eye. In all my observations the head of the observer was kept in an upright or natural position."

The elaborate introduction of Professor Hall leaves us little scope for further explanation. We may state, however, that the tables in which these observations are condensed cover nearly 150 folio pages, and will be accepted as a valuable addition to the literature of this subject, which has been much developed of late by the researches of Mr. Burnham and others.

A PARASITE IN ÆGERIA SYRINGÆ. HARR.

By G. H. French, Carbondale, Ill.

When examining the stems of some lilac bushes in my yard, I found a place in the bark of one where it seemed that an Ægerian pupa might soon protrude for the purpose of liberating the moth. Upon cutting away the thin film of bark, I found the end of a chrysalis visible. I carefully cut away the wood, took this out and put it in a jelly dish surrounded with lilac leaves to prevent its drying up, and waited for the imago to come forth. June 5th, a week after the chrysalis had been put into the jelly dish, I saw something among the leaves which I supposed was the expected moth, but which proved to be a hymenopter. I did not know but the insect might be one of the boring bees that often resort to the holes left by Ægerians in which to rear their young, but an examination of both the insect and the empty pupa case assured me that I had a parasite. The chrysalis was certainly that of an Ægerian, having all the characteristic marks of the pupæ of that family; and the insect in emerging from it had gnawed a hole near the end on the left side instead of the usual method of emergence of insects from their own pupa cases. More than this, the specimen was a true Ichneumonide and not a Crabronide as I at first thought it might be. This is the first time I have known of any parasite working in the Ægerians.

I make the parasite to be *Phæogenes Ater*, Cres. It is shining jet black, 40 of an inch long, the antennæ 25 jointed, the first 8 black, the next 4 white and the rest dark brown. The joints of the legs are a little pale.

It is impossible for me to say when the parasite was introduced into its host; but it must have been before it pupated, because the chrysalis when taken from the bush was entire, showing no broken place. That the Ægerian was *Æ. Syringæ*, I have no doubt, I do not know of any other boring in the lilac.—*Papilio.*