Prominent as the object is thus likely to become, it deserves a good name. I would suggest that of Pluto, and desire to urge the claims of this gentleman to the distinction. He is the only one, of the six children of Saturn whom that unnatural father was unsuccessful in eating or otherwise destroying, who has not yet stood as godfather or godmother to some member of our planetary system. The other five, Jupiter, Neptune, Ceres, Vesta and Juno, have been worthily assigned, either to major planets or to the earlier discovered members of the Mars-Jupiter belt of asteroids. For the use of the later discoveries in this numerous group the list of available female goddesses has long since been exhausted, and now sweethearts, wives, girl-babies, and even provinces, cities and towns, are jumbled together in our lists of these objects in a ludicrous way. Will it not assist to a slight return to dignity and sanity of nomenclature to give some of the neglected male gods a chance, and destroy the unfair monopoly of the *beau sexe* in such matters? This seems a good time to begin. The body in question stands apart from the Mars-Jupiter belt, practically a stunted twin of Mars himself. Moreover, there is a certain fitness in the appellation arising from its faintness or invisibility on ordinary occasions. Pluto, under his older name, Hades, was the 'invisible' or 'unknown,' the God of Darkness. This invisibility he removes, with the helmet forged for his concealment by Vulcan, when he comes to perihelion opposition, shining then as a comparatively bright star, perhaps visible to the naked eye. This helmet, by the way, could serve as his conventional planetary symbol, if one is desired.

The addition of new asteroids to our lists has become such a nuisance that ordinarily the attachment of ridiculous names may be regarded as one of the helpful influences in discouraging further useless multiplication of these troublesome wards of astronomy. But when one is born into the solar system which gives promise of paying for its keep, some attention should be devoted to a proper christening. In the solution of the problems I have indicated, Pluto may be counted on to pay handsomely for his board and clothes.

It is hoped that the discoverer will take these considerations, and others which could be urged, into account in his selection of a suitable name for this interesting and important little object.

S. C. CHANDLER.

CAMBRIDGE, October 31, 1898.

THE MINOR PLANET DQ.

THE notice in *Nature*, September 29th, quoted in SCIENCE, October 14th, seems to indicate a misunderstanding in reference to the orbit of the new minor planet DQ, by implying that it lies wholly within that of Mars. This is not the case; while the perihelion distance of the new planet is about 23,000,000 miles less than that of Mars, or only 12,500,000 miles greater than the mean distance of the earth, the eccentricity of its orbit is such that its aphelion distance is 37,300,000 miles greater than the perihelion distance of Mars, or nearly 10,800,000 miles greater than the aphelion distance of Mars. The periodic time of the new planet is only 643.7 days, or 1.76 years. The periods of all the other asteroids lie between 3.0 and 8.4 years.

The above numbers are derived from the elements of the orbit of DQ which I have computed from observations embracing an interval of 43 days. These elements confirm the results of Dr. Berberich.

W. J. HUSSEY.

LICK OBSERVATORY, October 27, 1898.

THE STRESS-STRAIN RELATIONS OF RUBBER.

IN the issue of SCIENCE of November 19, 1897, is a very interesting article by Professor Thurston upon the singular stress-strain relations of rubber, accompanied by the strain diagram for the same. This curve shows very clearly the peculiar and sudden increase in the value of the ratio of the stress to the strain as the point of rupture is approached.

It seems to the writer that this form of curve is to be expected as the result of the peculiar microscopic and physical constitution of rubber. It is well established that rubber consists of a mixture of two modifications of the same substance, one hard and fibrous and the other soft and viscous. These are identical in composition and similar in general properties and reactions. In other words, rubber consists of a