refractivity imbedded in the lens would come nearest. Such a bubble would replace a concave lens in front of the eye, and the rays brought more nearly to a focus would leave a deficiency around the area of convergence. Possibly the images in the preceding paragraph may be explained in the same way.

3. A third phenomenon is probably quite well known, though I must here also confess my ignorance. The diffuse and faint (false) corona which most people see around a distant point source, changes to an intensely brilliant and narrow colored ring with the blue packed close upon the red, whenever the pupil is opened by belladonna. That no true (objective) corona is in question may be proved at once by blotting out the point source with the sharp end of a pin, whereupon the phenomenon vanishes completely, although the region in which the corona was localized is still almost wholly visible. As the effect of the stimulus subsides the aperture of the red annulus, which is about 7 degrees in the brilliant and narrow state, with all colors close together, expands to about 9.5 degrees for the faint and diffuse case with the colors far apart, during the three or four days of contraction of the pupil.

The observation here in question is not lacking in interest for the physicist; yet I have often been provoked at not finding any allusion to such an obtrusive phenomenon in the treatises on optics with which I happen to be acquainted.

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PRESERVING SPIDERS' WEBS.

SPIDERS' webs are so interesting in themselves and each web is so characteristic of the particular species to which its maker belongs that their study is one of the most fascinating of natural history pursuits. However, if I am not mistaken, it is not generally known that they can be easily and permanently preserved for future study or display. One method of doing this occurred to me several years ago while watching Mr. Jas. H. Emerton spraying webs for photographing, and I have since used it so successfully that it seems worth describing.

The web to be preserved is sprayed with artist's shellac from an atomizer, in much the same way that crayon drawings are fixed, and immediately a clean glass plate is pressed against it, carefully breaking, at the same time, the supporting strands so that the web, which will stick to the glass, is freed from its former surroundings. Since every strand of the web is covered with minute droplets of shellac, they are rendered plainly visible and, furthermore, they adhere very tightly to the glass. In a short time the shellac will thoroughly dry and the plates holding the webs can be filed away in a cabinet or hung up for display. If desired, the web may be protected by covering it with another glass plate in the way that the film of a lantern slide is protected, but this is not usually necessary.

The above directions apply paticularly to the flat webs of the Epeiridæ, but with a little ingenuity almost any spider's web may be preserved in its natural form. For instance, I obtained a permanent mount of the dome-shaped web of *Linyphia marginata* in the following way: A branched twig was cut and stripped of its leaves. This was fastened in an upright position on a suitable base and several females of *L. marginata* put on it after sunset. The next morning I had a beautiful web with a perfect dome and all the outlying threads. The only thing that remained to be done was to spray it with shellac and set it away. The Theridiidæ also give very satisfactory specimens in much the same way. But for the orb webs I think the glass plates are preferable.

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A NEW METEORITE FROM SCOTT COUNTY, KANSAS.

A HITHERTO unreported meteorite fall took place on the night of September 2, 1905, about 9:30 P.M., in Scott County, Kansas. The fall was attended with the usual explosion, light and sound, variously compared to cannonading and the roll of heavy wagons.

Thus far fourteen pieces of the stone have