

as follows: Pole of Mars, R. A.  $317^{\circ}.5$ ; Dec.,  $54^{\circ}.5$ . Epoch 1905. Tilt of martian equator to martian ecliptic,  $23^{\circ} 59'$ . This value of the inclination of the martian equator is somewhat less than that which has been generally accepted heretofore.

#### RECENT COMETS.

DURING the year 1905 three comets were discovered for which orbits were determined. Two of them were found by Giacobini, and the other by Shaer. So far during the present year two comets have been discovered, by Brooks and Kopff. None of these has been of much popular interest. For an unusually long period no spectacular object, such as the great comets of 1843, 1858, 1881 and 1882, has appeared. One may appear at any time, but of this there is no certainty. However, Halley's periodic comet will be due about 1910, and it will probably be bright.

S. I. BAILEY.

#### SAMUEL PIERPONT LANGLEY.

At a memorial meeting of the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution, on March 6, the following resolutions were passed:

*Resolved*, That the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution express their profound sorrow at the death, on February 27, 1906, of Samuel Pierpont Langley, Secretary of the Institution since 1887, and tender to the relatives of Mr. Langley their sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

That in the death of Mr. Langley this Institution has lost a distinguished, efficient and faithful executive officer under whose administration the international influence of the parent Institution has been greatly increased, and by whose personal efforts two important branches of work have been added to its care—the National Zoological Park and the Astrophysical Observatory.

That the scientific world is indebted to Mr. Langley for the invention of important apparatus and instruments of precision, for numerous additions to knowledge, more especially for his epoch-making investigations in solar physics, and for his efforts in placing the important subject of aerial navigation upon a scientific basis.

That all who sought the truth and cultivated science, letters and the fine arts, have lost through his death a co-worker and a sympathizer.

That the Executive Committee be requested to arrange for a memorial meeting to be held in Washington.

That Doctor Andrew D. White be invited to prepare a suitable memorial which shall form a part of the Records of this Board.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

SIR GEORGE DARWIN, K.C.B., Plumian professor of astronomy, will represent the University of Cambridge at the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin by the American Philosophical Society.

At a meeting held at the Mansion House, on February 27, the Lord Mayor of London presiding, Lord Halsbury moved "That, in view of this being the fiftieth year of the foundation of the coal-tar color industry, it is desirable that steps should be taken to memorialize the event and to do honor to Dr. W. H. Perkin, the founder." After this motion had been supported and carried, Lord Rayleigh moved "That an appeal be made in this country and abroad for subscriptions for the purpose of carrying out the following objects: (1) The presentation to Dr. Perkin for his life time of an oil portrait of himself, executed by an eminent artist, the portrait to become the property of the nation at his death. (2) The execution of a marble bust of Dr. Perkin to be placed in the rooms of the Chemical Society. (3) The establishment of a 'Perkin Research Fund' for the promotion of chemical research to be administered through the Chemical Society." After this motion had been supported by Sir William Ramsay and Sir Henry Roscoe and carried, arrangements were made for the appointment of a general committee and an executive committee for carrying out the objects of the resolution.

DR. HANS DREISCH, of Heidelberg, has been appointed Gifford Lecturer in Aberdeen University for 1907-9.

THE University of Heidelberg has conferred the Victor Meyer prize on Dr. Ernst Stern for his investigations in organic chemistry.

DR. ROBERT KOCH will return to East Africa, in April, to continue his investigations