

MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

NEW PLANET.

A new planet, of great brilliancy has been recently discovered by M. Chacornac, of the Paris Observatory.

THE COMET OF 1856.

M. Rabinet, an eminent French astronomer, and member of the Academy of Sciences, in an article recently published, has given some interesting details respecting the comet which is expected to make its appearance about the year 1856:—“This comet is one of the grandest of which historians make mention. It was seen in the years 104, 392, 683, 975, 1264, and the last time in 1556. Astronomers agreed in predicting its return in 1848, but it failed to appear. Already the observatories began to be alarmed for the fate of the beautiful wandering star. Sir John himself had put a crape upon his telescope, when a learned calculator of Middleburg, M. Bomme, reassured the astronomical world of the continued existence of the venerable and magnificent comet. Disquieted, as all other astronomers were, by the non-arrival of the comet at the expected time, M. Bomme, aided by the preparatory labors of Mr. Hind, has revised all the calculations, and estimated all the actions of all the planets upon the comet for three hundred years of revolution,—the result of this patient labor gives the arrival of the comet in August, 1858, with an uncertainty of two years, more or less; so that from 1856 to 1860 we may expect the great comet which was affirmed to be the cause of the abdication of the Emperor Charles V., in 1556.”

COLORS SEEN THROUGH THE STEREOSCOPE.

At a recent meeting of the Manchester Photographic Society, Mr. Dancer read an interesting paper on the stereoscope and its application to photography. A practical discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Sidebotham drew attention to the results produced by looking at two different colors through the stereoscope. Blue and yellow, he said, produced (to his sight) green; red and green produced a dirty white; a blue spot and red bars produced purple bars and white; and the two colors that seemed most readily to combine were blue and red, producing a bright purple. Blue and yellow did not form a good green in the first instance, and required looking at a short time.—Mr. Dancer said that to some persons' sights different colours combined more easily than to other persons', to whom each colour seemed to predominate alternately; and the eye, he thought required some education, as it was only by looking steadily that the colours were re-composed and the result seen.—In one instance, Mr. Sidebotham stated that bars of different colors produced a check of one colour, the other being entirely lost; and the solution of this singularity, it was suggested, might be arrived at by throwing the prismatic colors upon paper.

AMERICAN TELESCOPE.

The Telescope recently procured for the Observatory at Ann Arbor, Michigan, is the third in size in the world. The object glass is thirteen inches in diameter. Few persons have a correct idea of the time, the toil and the skill requisite to prepare one of these glasses. First, there are the manufactures of the rough disks. A mass of glass weighing about 800 lbs. is melted together. When in a state of perfect fusion, the furnace is walled up, and the whole is left to cool gradually. The cooling process occupies some two months. By this process the glass is annealed.