

Mellish's Comet of 1915.

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It has been possible to observe Mellish's comet from about the beginning of March last. It was then in Ophiuchus, a small round nebulosity, about 5 minutes in diameter, and of a white opal colour. It was on March 17th of about the 8th magnitude, and to the east of 68 Ophiuchus. By the 6th of April the comet had passed into Serpens, its R.A., being 18 h. 8 m. 32 s. and S. Decl. $2^{\circ} 11'$. Its brightness was then magnitude 7.9. It had a bright nucleus and an elliptical coma whose major axis was towards the angle of position 270° . A month later the comet was clearly distinguishable to the naked eye as an oval nebulosity, just below the Milky Way in Sagittories S. Decl. 16° . The tail, visible with the aid of binoculars measured 20'. There appeared to be a secondary tail detached from the main tail. Its brilliancy was then magnitude 5.7. By May 18th its tail was about 1° in length and its magnitude 5.

The comet approached nearest the Earth on June 6th at 36 million miles distance. Its perihelion passage was on 17th of July. In August it entered Canis Major to the S. of Sirius. Its nucleus has been separated into two parts of the 11th and 13th magnitudes respectively. The distance between the two fragments is 20 seconds, and their angle of position 291° . The comet is accompanied by two companions. The distance of the principal companion was 28 seconds and the angle of position 285° . The other body, less bright, was in between it and the comet on the same line. The elements of Mellish's comet are singularly like those of the comet 1748 II. The position and magnitude of the comet in the middle of the months of May to October 1915 are as follows:—

Dates.	R. A.	Decl.	Mag.
	H. M. S.		
May 15	... 19 14 29	$25^{\circ} 19' 2''$	5.9
June 15	... 3 15 6	$69^{\circ} 50'$	4.8
July 15	... 6 4 4	$40^{\circ} 18'$	6.0
August 15	... 6 26 0	$27^{\circ} 55'$	7.2
Sept. 15	... 6 26 0	$21^{\circ} 18'$	9.
Oct. 15	... 5 54 0	$15^{\circ} 33'$	12.