

flight; was it, as I had always imagined, a clean-cut straight or curved line, or was it zig-zag, and if so, was there any explanation for it? Since reading Sergt. Hempstead's letter, it seems to me we have a very interesting and extraordinary phenomenon to deal with. With a meteor there is a fiery trail, but it vanishes as quickly as the meteor itself. What, then, is the explanation of this fiery trail; its duration of luminosity; its extraordinary zig-zag appearance, and the fact that it was not visible until the meteor had travelled some distance, and of its sudden termination; and what was the blue mist that was noticeable?

It would also be interesting to know whether this same phenomenon was noticed at Bhopal or elsewhere.

Meteors of April 1911.

By B. M. RAKSHIT.

In April there are six meteoric showers. The first is from 17th April to 1st May; the second from 18th to 23rd April; the third on 20th and 21st; the fourth from 20th to 22nd; the fifth from 20th to 25th; and the sixth on the 30th April. Of these the shower from 20th to 22nd is important and the meteors of it are swift. The radiant point is near the boundary of Lyra and Hercules, but the shower is known as the Lyrid shower. A short description of Lyra would, it is considered, be useful to persons watching for the meteors. Lyra is a small constellation, but it is widely known, as it contains the very bright star, Vega or α Lyrae. Those who do not know it may easily find it by the following method. The seven stars of the Plough in the Great Bear are well known. Join ϵ Ursae Majoris the 3rd star in the handle of the Plough with the Pole star, and draw a line perpendicular to it from the latter star, and this will pass through Vega. Near this star will be found three double stars ϵ , ζ and δ Lyrae, which can be separated with very little optical aid. Below ζ and ν will be found β and α , of which the former is a short period, variable but always visible to the naked eye, as it never descends below 4.5 in magnitude. On the east of Vega will be found η and θ Lyrae, two small stars below the fourth magnitude. On the 20th April Vega will rise at 9h. 21m. p.m., and its angular distance at that time from the east point will be about 43° towards north. The R. A. and the declination of the radiant point of the shower are 18h. 4m. and 33° N. It is about 4° north of σ Hercules, a star of fourth magnitude, and 43m. ahead of β Lyrae.