RECENT MEASURES OF "*a*. CENTAURI."

By A. B. Biggs.

As an illustration of the efficiency of the Micrometer described in my former paper, I give the following series of measures, in their order, extending from 26th May to 21st November, 1888 :—

Distance Readings	15″·60	16″·01	17″·13	17″·40	16″·93	17″·16
Position Angle	201°·5	203°·5	204°	204°·2	205°·4	203°·7

Summary Table. Mean Date 1888·71 ; „ Distance 16″·71 ; „ Posn. Angle 203°·7 } Total No. of Observations 25.

I also give for comparison, measures taken with the *Filar* Micrometer, from 19th March to 26th May, 1888 ; and from 19th September to 21st November, 1888 :—

			Mean of both Columns.
Mean Date	1888·35	1888·82	1888·58
„ Distance	16″·45	17″·10	16″·77
„ Position Angle	203°·34	204·6	203°·97
Total No. of Observa^{ns}	14	29	43

I reckon the variation at the present time at + 1″·00 per annum for distance, and + 0°·7 for position angle. To the foregoing means of measures up to epoch 1889·00, we shall have to multiply these rates of variation by (1889 − 1888·71 =) 0·29 :—and (1889 − 1888·58 =) 0·42 respectively. Applying the corrections thus obtained, we may make the following comparisons. In the third column I give the corresponding figures from my Ephemeris—(Society's Vol., 1887, page 82) :—

EPOCH, 1889·00.

	ABB	Filar	Ephemeris
Micrometer			
Distance	17″·00	17″·19	17″·00
Position Angle	203°·90	204°·26	202°·90

I think it probable that the Ephemeris is in error about 1 degree in Position Angle.

The measures of distance by the Filar were all taken as differences of Declination, and were reduced to direct distance by the secant of the Position Angle.

The specially favourable conditions which this star affords for double star observations, as well as the particular interest which attaches to it on many accounts, especially to us in the South, will, I trust, be sufficient excuse for my having dealt with so much detail.