seemingly a great puzzle to Smyth, which he perhaps never solved, although he was very intimate with the staff of the Palermo Observatory. Webb, however, discovered their origin by reversing the component letters, and so reading *Nicolaus Venator*, the Latinized form of Niccolo Cacciatore, the name of the assistant and successor of Piazzi. But Miss Rolleston, in her singular book ***Mazzaroth***, considered in some quarters as of authority, wrote that they are derived, *a* from the

Arabic Scalooin, swift (*as the flow of water*);

and *β* from the

Syriac and Chaldee Rotaneh, or Rotaneu, *swiftly running* (*as water in the trough*).

For no part of this scholarly (!) statement does there seem to be the least foundation. Burritt gave these titles as **Scalovin** and **Rotanen.**

a may be variable to the extent of half a magnitude in fourteen days.

β is a very close pair, 0″.68 apart in 1897, at a position angle of 357°, with the rapid orbital period of about twenty-six years. Another companion, purple in color and of the 11th magnitude, 6″ away, has lately been discovered by See, and so *β* may be ternary; while two other stars of the 10th and 13th magnitudes are about 30″ away.

γ is a beautiful double of 4th and 5th magnitudes, 11″ apart, with a position angle of 270°; but, if binary, their motion is extremely slow. The components are golden and bluish green, and a fine object for small glasses.

ε, a 4th-magnitude, although lying near the dorsal fin of our present figure, bears the very common name **Deneb,** from **Al Dhanab al Dulfīm,** the Dolphin's Tail. But in Arabia it also was **Al ʿAmūd al Ṣalīb,** as marking the Pillar of the Cross. In China it was **Pae Chaou,** the Rotten Melon.

The comparative brilliancy of *β*, γ, *δ*, and ε has been variously estimated — a fact which the observations of Gould at Albany in 1858, and at Cordoba in 1871–74, prove to be occasioned by variability, within moderate limits, of all four.

★

Dorado, the Goldfish,

first published by Bayer among his new southern figures, is still thus known in Germany and Italy, but the French say **Dorade**; and Flammarion has **Doradus,** perhaps from confusion with its supposed genitive case. The word is from the Spanish, and refers not to our little exotic cyprinoid, but to the large *coryphaena* of the tropical seas, of changing colors at death. On the planisphere in Gore's translation of *l'Astronomie Populaire* it is strangely ren-