Friday, November 24, 1899.

CONTENTS:
Report on the Naval Observatory.......................... 745
Address of the President of the Geographical Section of the British Association, I: Sir John Murray. 751
The Early Presidents of the American Association, IV. (with plate): Dr. Marcus Benjamin... 759
The Sense of Hearing in Ants: Le Roy D. Weld........................................ 766
Are the Trees Advancing or Retreating upon the Nebraska Plains: Professor Charles E. Bessey........................................ 768
Preliminary Note on New Meteorites from Alleghen, Michigan and Marri, Texas: Dr. George P. Merrill........................................ 770
Permanent Preparations in Hermetically Sealed Tubes: Professor Henry F. Nachttrieb... 771
Scientific Books:—
Scientific Journals and Articles.............................. 775
Societies and Academies:—
Discussion and Correspondence:—
The Need for a Classification of Prehistoric Implements: Professor Warren K. Moorehead. 777
Notes on Inorganic Chemistry: J. L. H.......................... 778
Current Notes on Meteorology:—
International Meteorological Committee; The Texas Floods of June 27 to July 15; Volcanic Smoke and the Prevailing Winds; Tornado Power: R. DeC. 779
Report of the President of Columbia University...... 780
Scientific Notes and News................................ 781
University and Educational News.......................... 784

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

REPORT ON THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

We print on another page of our present issue the report of the Board of Visitors to the Naval Observatory, made on October 2d. Most astronomers will, we believe, agree with us that the work of the Board has been well done in several vital points. It is true that many details are left to be settled and much friction may be produced in putting the plan into operation. But, in any case, much will have been gained.

The good features of the report are these:

We have for the first time what may be called an official admission that the Observatory must be reorganized on a civilian basis, made under such auspices and in such a way as to command attention. In stating the case all disagreeable details are avoided and, so far as possible, conclusions are intimated rather than expressed. Yet every point is so stated that no mistake of interpretation by the careful reader is possible. The optimistic impression always so agreeable to entertain, that, however weak may have been the administration from time to time in the past, it is now all right, is guarded against by stating that the scope of the remarks is not limited to the present time, but covers almost the