

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1900.

REPORT OF THE WATSON TRUSTEES ON THE  
AWARD OF THE WATSON MEDAL  
TO DAVID GILL.

## CONTENTS:

<i>Report of the Watson Trustees on the Award of the Watson Medal to David Gill:</i> PROFESSOR S. NEWCOMB.....	721
<i>Experience Notes upon Plot Experiments:</i> PROFESSOR BYRON D. HALSTED.....	726
<i>Modern Problems in Acoustics:</i> CHARLES K. WEAD.....	732
<i>Opportunities for Biological Study in Paris and the Requirements for the New Doctorate:</i> PROFESSOR FREDERICK C. NEWCOMBE.....	736
<i>The Senses of Primitive Man.....</i>	740
<i>Oliver Payson Hubbard:</i> PROFESSOR J. J. STEVENSON, DR. A. A. JULIEN.....	742
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Royce's—World and the Individual:</i> PROFESSOR R. M. WENLEY. <i>A Preliminary Report on the Geology of Louisiana:</i> DR. W. H. DALL. <i>Loew on the Physiological Rôle of Mineral Nutrients:</i> PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL. <i>Wiechmann's Chemistry, its Evolution and Achievements.</i> PROFESSOR W. A. NOYES.	
<i>Books Received.....</i>	743
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles.....</i>	747
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>Biological Society of Washington:</i> F. A. LUCAS. <i>Section of Geology and Mineralogy of the New York Academy of Science:</i> DR. THEODORE G. WHITE. <i>The Academy of Science of St. Louis:</i> PROFESSOR WILLIAM TRELEASE. <i>American Mathematical Society:</i> PROFESSOR F. N. COLE. <i>The New York Section of the American Chemical Society:</i> DR. DURAND WOODMAN	749
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Physical Observations during the Total Solar Eclipse:</i> A. LAWRENCE ROTCH. <i>The University of Cincinnati:</i> PROFESSOR THOMAS FRENCH, JR. <i>'00 or 1900:</i> PROFESSOR E. L. MARK	752
<i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i>	
<i>The Mexican Boundary; Glaciation of Sierra Costa, Cal.; The Trough of Lake Nyassa:</i> PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS .....	753
<i>The Making of a Museum:</i> F. A. L.....	755
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	756
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>	760

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.

At the last annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences the Watson medal was, on recommendation of the Trustees, awarded to Dr. David Gill, Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, for his work in perfecting the application of the heliometer to astronomical measurements resulting in an important advance in astronomy of precision especially in the determination of the parallaxes of the sun and stars, and of the positions of the planets. In accordance with our custom I now have the honor to submit a fuller report on the work in question.

It is as true of the astronomer as of the poet that he must be born, not made. Although there is no branch of research in which a wider knowledge of the whole field of physical science and a broader grasp of first principles are necessary than in astronomy, it is none the less true that this knowledge and grasp must be supplemented by that indefinable quality born in the man which leads him to pursue astronomy with zeal and success. The career of our medalist offers a remarkable example of this fact. So far as can be inferred from his writings, his early training was rather in the direction of mathematical science, especially horology, than in that of astronomy. His first appearance as an active worker in

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