Friday, May 11, 1900.

CONTENTS:

Report of the Watson Trustees on the Award of the Watson Medal to David Gill: PROFESSOR S. NEWCOMB...721
Experience Notes upon Pilot Experiments: PROFESSOR BYRON D. HALSTEAD...726
Modern Problems in Acoustics: CHARLES K. WEAD...729
Opportunities for Biological Study in Paris and the Requirements for the New Doctorate: PROFESSOR FREDERICK C. NEWCOMBE...736
The Senses of Primitive Man...740
Oliver Payson Hubbard: PROFESSOR J. J. STEVENSON, DR. A. A. JULIEN...742
Scientific Books:
Scientific Journals and Articles...747
Societies and Academies:
Discussion and Correspondence:
Physical Observations during the Total Solar Eclipse: A. LAWRENCE RITCH. The University of Cincinnati: PROFESSOR THOMAS FRENCH, JR. '00 or 1900: PROFESSOR E. L. MARK...752
Current Notes on Physiography:
The Mexican Boundary: Glaciation of Sierra Coulta, Cal.: The Trough of Lake Nyassa: PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS...753
The Making of a Museum: F. A. L...755
Scientific Notes and News...756
University and Educational News...760

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

At the last annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences the Watson medal was, on recommendation of the Trustees, awarded to 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