

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1900.

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

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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