Friday, October 1, 1897.

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

AN UNDISCOVERED GAS.*

A sectional address to members of the
British Association falls under one of three heads. It may be historical, or actual, or

*Address to the Chemical Section, British Association
for the Advancement of Science, Toronto, 1897,
by the President of the Section.

prophetic; it may refer to the past, the
present or the future. In many cases, in-
deed in all, this classification overlaps.
Your former presidents have given some-
times a historical introduction, followed by
an account of the actual state of some
branch of our science, and, though rarely,
concluding with prophetic remarks. To
those who have an affection for the past,
the historical side appeals forcibly; to the
practical man, and to the investigator en-
gaged in research, the actual, perhaps, pre-
sents more charm; while to the general
public, to whom novelty is often more of
an attraction than truth, the prophetic as-
pect excites most interest. In this address
I must endeavor to tickle all palates; and
perhaps I may be excused if I take this
opportunity of indulging in the dangerous
luxury of prophecy, a luxury which the
managers of scientific journals do not often
permit their readers to taste.

The subject of my remarks to-day is a
new gas. I shall describe to you later its
curious properties; but it would be unfair
not to put you at once in possession of the
knowledge of its most remarkable property
—it has not yet been discovered. As it is
still unborn, it has not yet been named.
The naming of a new element is no easy
matter. For there are only twenty-six let-
ters in our alphabet, and there are already
over seventy elements. To select a name
expressible by a symbol which has not al-
Editor's Summary

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