

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1899.

SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.\*

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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.

## INSTRUMENTS AND SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE OBSERVERS.

THE nature of the scientific work undertaken at the Lick Observatory is determined by such considerations as the unusually fine atmospheric conditions which prevail here, the nature of the instrumental equipment, and the number of observers on the staff. The general policy of the Observatory is to carry on investigations which cannot be pursued to so great advantage elsewhere. Thus, comets which are bright enough to be easily seen at the leading observatories receive only occasional attention, while comets which, by reason of their faintness or unfavorable position, are difficult of observation, are followed as closely as possible. Elaborate investigations dealing with large masses of data, and requiring a large force of computers, can only be undertaken by richly endowed observatories or by those which receive government assistance. The Lick Observatory makes the most of its natural advantages; and extended theoretical researches, which can be made as well in a city as at a fine observing station, do not form a part of our general plan.

As all the principal instruments of the

\* Extract from the forthcoming report of the Director of the Lick Observatory to the President of the University of California, for the year ending Sept. 1, 1899.

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