

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1900.

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## THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC WORK.

A CORRESPONDENT, whose letter is printed in another column, calls attention to the oft-recurring questions of the superintendency and organization of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Whatever may be the merits or demerits of the considerations adduced by this correspondent with reference to matters of detail, it is evident that the essentials of these questions are quite as important now as they have been at any time during the past half-century. These essentials are, in fact, not limited in their application to any one scientific bureau of the government, but are of equal importance to all of them. The question of reorganization of the Naval Observatory is now pending, after a long and painstaking investigation by a committee specially delegated to consider the matter ; and the question of the establishment of a new bureau which may take charge of the indispensable business of national standards is likely to come up in the near future. The mode of selection of a head, or director, of any one of these scientific bureaus is, then, or at least ought to be, a matter of concern to all men of science ; for whatever mode is

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12 (307)

*Science* 12 (307), 737-776.

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*Science* (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.