

SCIENCE :

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To Correspondents.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor—Box 3838, P. O., New York—with name and address of writer, not necessarily for publication without consent.

Scientific papers and correspondence intended for publication, should be written *legibly* on one side only of the paper. Articles thus received will be returned when found unsuitable for the Journal.

Those engaged in Scientific Research are invited to make this Journal the medium of recording their work, and facilities will be extended to those desirous of publishing original communications possessing merit.

Proceedings of Scientific Societies will be recorded, but the abstracts furnished must be signed by the Secretaries.

Both questions and answers in "Notes and Queries" should be made as brief as possible; an answer appearing to demand an elaborate reply, may be written in the form of an article.

To Subscribers.

Terms of subscription for SCIENCE will be \$4 a year, payable in advance. Six months, \$2.50. Single copies 10 cents.

Subscriptions forwarded by mail should be addressed to the Editor, Box 3838, P. O., New York, and Post-office orders made payable to "John Michels."

To Advertisers.

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THE EDISON LIGHT.

A gas lighting and sanitary journal published in London asserts that Mr. Edison has thrown up his electric light researches, and left for California, and suggests that there is now a fair field to those disposed to try their hand in this direction.

Possible the "*wish*" was father to the "*thought*" with the promoters of this journal, when they printed this atrocious statement, which is not only false but malicious.

In this country a contradiction of such a "*canard*" is, of course, unnecessary. Mr. Edison has ceased to notice attacks of this nature, and possibly in his retirement at Menlo Park, and with every moment occupied on his important work, he may not even know of them. Warned by experience of the misinterpretation placed upon his willingness to permit the public to witness the gradual progress he was making with his carbon-electric lamp, he has of late discouraged the continued reporting of his movements, but within a very few weeks a whole section of Menlo Park will be illuminated by means of his carbon-

electric lights, equal in extent to one of those districts which will be afterwards established in New York City if success is achieved.

When the arrangements are completed the question of the success or non-success of Mr. Edison's system of electric lighting will be removed from the arena of experimental demonstrations. Here will be an exhibition on a full-sized scale, which must be decisive, as accurate calculations can be made, and every point determined down to the smallest detail.

This will be Edison's answer to all the meretricious arguments and scientific hair-splitting which has been of late, with little generosity, carefully disseminated to his disadvantage. Taking the view that it is a waste of time to argue theoretically, on that which can be demonstrated practically, Edison, through all this wrangle has been silent, but not idle; while others *talked*, he has *worked*, and in a few short weeks all will be ready, when those who are competent can see and judge for themselves.

In the mean time, during this short interval, let slander be silent. The public is becoming nauseated with the wearying cry of "*non possumus*," and the real men of science in this country, appreciating the true scientific course Edison has followed to solve the question, are prepared to give his results a crucial but fair investigation.

Professor Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, is desirous of obtaining information respecting Mr. James Smithson, the founder of the Institution, for the purpose of assisting the writing of a memoir now in preparation. James Smithson, F. R. S., was the son of Hugh, first Duke of Northumberland, and Elizabeth, heiress of the Hungerfords of Audley, and neice of Charles, Duke of Somerset. In 1826 he resided at Bentinck street, Cavendish square, London. He died in 1826. The following are some of the points on which information is desired: John Fitall, a trusted servant of Mr. James Smithson, died June 14th, 1834, at Bush House, Wanstead, Essex, England. Have his heirs any relics or mementos of Mr. Smithson, any notes, letters, etc.? The executor of Mr. Smithson was Mr. Drummond, the London banker; can any original letters or documents be procured in this direction? Information relative to Henry Louis Dickinson (half brother of James Smithson) Colonel of the 84th Regiment of Foot. Information relative to the college life of Mr. Smithson. He was a graduate of Pembroke College, Oxford University, May 26, 1786. Letters from Sir Humphrey Davy, Sir Davies Gilbert, Hon. Henry Cavendish, Dr. W. H. Wollaston, Mr. Smithson Tennant, Dr. Joseph Black, Dr. Hutton, M. Arago, M. Gay Lussac, M. Cordier, M. Haiy, M. Klaproth, M. A. C. Becquerel, M. Fanjas de St. Fond, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Maclair, Mr. William Thomson. Any original letter of Mr. Smithson, or authenticated facts relating to him will be gladly received, and should be addressed to Professor Spencer F. Baird, Smithsonian Institute, Washington.

The Emperor of Germany has appointed Professor Baron von Nordenskjöld a foreign Knight of the Order pour le Mérite for Arts and Sciences.