present arrangements, is impracticable, as no volume of proceedings has been issued in recent years under ten or eleven months. This year it is twelve. Let such papers then be printed in quarto form under the title of 'memoirs' (a series already commenced), and issued one by one as fast as printed: even with this elimination and restriction, the volume, with the growth of the society, will become quite as large as should be issued by the association with its limited funds and its liberal rules of distribution. The members would receive an acceptable *quid pro quo*, containing a fair statement of the work of the association and the industry of its members. Such an action would, as it should, elevate the presidential addresses to a higher dignity; while, more important than all, it would free the association from a heavy monetary burden, and enable it, as it otherwise could not, to devote a not unimportant part of its annual receipts to annual subsidies for special research. The association would thus be enabled to take the place that belongs essentially to it — of fostering 'the advancement of science' in the most effective manner.

ANOTHER EVIDENCE of the necessity of restriction, in expenses of astronomical establishments, comes from abroad. In his last report, Admiral Mouchez, director of the Paris observatory, noting the fact that the publication of the *Bulletin astronomique* entails great outlay of the resources of the observatory, expresses his apprehension, that, unless the list of subscribers to the periodical is largely augmented, the journal must soon be discontinued. *Bulletin astronomique* is a monthly of the highest value; and, although very young, it would be greatly missed. The first number was that issued for the month of January, 1884.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

**** *Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

Meteoric activity, Aug. 10.

ON the 10th of August last, the date of meteor activity, it was noticed about ten o'clock in the evening, that meteors issued very frequently from the constellation of Perseus. They increased in number hourly, until about two o'clock in the morning they attained their maximum frequency, which was about one hundred and fifty every hour. After this the number per hour grew less frequently until four o'clock in the morning, when they fell, as in the early evening, about fifty each hour. The majority of meteors were of the third and fourth magnitude, and from two to three degrees in length. The finest meteor of the evening issued from the constellation Perseus, took a north-westerly course, and disappeared behind the horizon. It was of the first magnitude, and silvery in color. The passage of the meteor was marked by a train resembling steam, which did not disappear for over a minute. Many other meteors were observed during the evening, but all were less brilliant than the one described. Two were seen directly south, and a few south-west; but the majority issued from the constellation of Perseus.

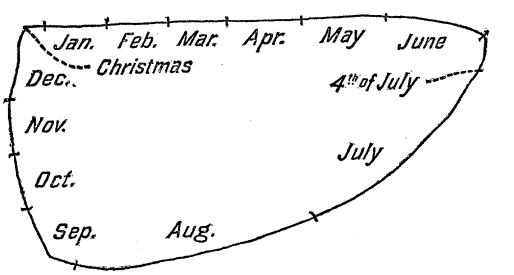
DARWIN MYERS.

Fort Wayne, Ind.

Color associations with the months.

Noticing in *Science* of July 31 a letter on 'color associations with the months,' I would call attention to a geometrical association that I have unconsciously acquired, and that is ever present in my mind when thinking of any date, or period of the year. The curve is represented in the subjoined sketch. The divisions represent months. Several, as you observe, appear longer than others. The plane in which this curve is described appears to me inclined at an angle of about 40° with the vertical. Its longest diameter is perhaps two hundred yards. From day to day I seem to move along this imaginary line to positions corresponding with the date.

Notable days, as Christmas and Fourth of July, stand out as distinct marks in the curve. It appears, not as a black line, but as a portion of space only



defined by marks here and there denoting days on which something occurred that I remember. My supposition as to the origin of this unnatural and rather unpleasant notion of the months, is, that, when a child at school, the impression made upon my mind by my every-day duties was similar to the emotions one would feel in walking around a curve arranged as this is. Entering school the middle of September, there was, until Christmas time, hard, up-hill work. Then for one week, until Jan. 1, a period of rest, after which things would go easier by my being accustomed to them, and looking forward to the spring. During June the curve begins to bend down; and, through July and August, there is perfect rest, as though one were sliding down with no exertion, until towards September the thought of again assuming the duties of school-life puts a stop to the downward motion, and the curve begins to ascend in September. On this supposition it is hard to explain why July and