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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1895.

TENDENCIES OF MODERN ELECTRICAL RESEARCH.

CONTENTS :

<i>Tendencies of Electrical Research :</i> M. I. PUPIN ...	861
<i>The Berne Physiological Congress (II.)</i>	880
<i>Current Notes on Physiography (XXI.) :—</i>	
<i>The Moors of Northwest Germany ; The Islands of East Friesland ; Physiographic Notes from Iceland ; Sable Island ; The Physical Features of Mauritius :</i> W. M. DAVIS.....	885
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology :—</i>	
<i>The Cradle of Mayan Culture ; Ancient Mexican Highways :</i> D. G. BRINTON.....	887
<i>Scientific Notes and News :—</i>	
<i>Harvard College Observatory ; Swedish Marine Zoölogical Station ; ' Timber ;' General</i>	888
<i>University and Educational News</i>	892
<i>Discussion and Correspondence :—</i>	
<i>An Easy Method of Making Line Drawings :</i> E. E. SLOSSON. <i>The Measurement of Colors :</i> C. L. F.....	893
<i>Scientific Literature :—</i>	
<i>On the Structure of Protoplasm :</i> E. A. ANDREWS. <i>Wiedersheim's Structure of Man :</i> HARRISON ALLEN. <i>Haddon's Evolution in Art ; Mercer's Hill Caves of Yucatan :</i> D. G. BRINTON. <i>Remsen and Wyatt's Chemical Experiments :</i> E. H. KEISER.....	893
<i>Societies and Academies :—</i>	
<i>Boston Society of Natural History :</i> SAMUEL HENSHAW. <i>New York Academy of Sciences :</i> WILLIAM HALLOCK. <i>The Torrey Botanical Club :</i> H. H. RUSBY. <i>Geological Conference of Harvard University :</i> T. A. JAGGAR, JR.....	902
<i>New Books</i>	904

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MODERN electrical research may be divided into two principal groups. Faraday's discoveries in electro-chemistry form the central part of the first group. The characteristic feature of the second group is Faraday's view of electro-magnetic phenomena, the view, namely, that electric and magnetic forces between material bodies act contiguously, that is from point to point through the intervening medium, the lumeniferous ether. These two groups are the foundation pillars which support the splendid edifice of the modern science of electricity. Faraday laid its foundation and he also raised the most essential parts of its splendid structure. But this structure bears to-day so many marks of the genius of Maxwell, Thomson, Helmholtz and Hertz that in our admiration for the exquisite detail which we owe to these great followers of Faraday we often forget the original design and the designer. Even so eminent a mathematical physicist as Poincaré can write profound mathematical treatises on modern electro-magnetic theory with scarcely a mention of Faraday's name.

A broad view of the tendencies of modern electrical research is obtained by comparing the fundamental concepts concerning electric and magnetic phenomena which pre-

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