SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1896.

CONTENTS:

The National Academy of Sciences76
Recent Advances in Malacology: Wm. H. Dall770
A Study of the Colon Bacillus Group, and especially of its Variability in Fermenting Power under Different Conditions: ADELAIDE WARD PECKHAM773
Superheated Steam in Steam Engines: R. H. THURSTON
On Certain Physical Difficulties in the Construction of Large Guns: W. LECONTE STEVENS
Osborn
Current Notes on Anthropology:— Paris School of Anthropology; An Archæological Map of Ohio: D. G. BRINTON789
Astronomical Notes: H. J790
Notes on Inorganic Chemistry: J. L. H790
Scientific Notes and News791
University and Educational News794
Discussion and Correspondence:— An Optical Illusion: J. MARK BALDWIN. Le Conte's Elements of Geology: C. W. HALL794
Scientific Literature:—
Zimmermann's Morphologie und Physiologie des Pflanzlichen Zellkernes: CONWAY MACMIL- LAN. Brinton's The Myths of the New World: ALICE C. FLETCHER797
Scientific Journals:— Astrophysical Journal; The American Geologist799
Societies and Academies:— The Geological Society of Washington: W. F. MORSELL. The Entomological Society of Washington: L. O. HOWARD. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia: EDWARD J. NOLAN. The Academy of Science of St. Louis: WILLIAM TRELEASE
New Books804

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THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

A SCIENTIFIC session of the National Academy of Sciences was held at Columbia University, New York, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November $17 \mathrm{th}$ 18th, and a business meeting was held on November 18th to consider the report of the President of the Academy to Congress. The President of the Academy, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, was prevented by illness from being present, and the sessions were presided over by President F. A. Walker, the Vice-President of the Academy. following members were present: Henry L. Abbot, J. A. Allen, George F. Barker, Carl Barus, John S. Billings, Henry P. Bowditch, William H. Brewer, Charles F. Chandler, Cyrus B. Comstock, Edward D. Cope, Edward S. Dana, Samuel F. Emmons, Benjamin A. Gould, Arnold Hague, Asaph Hall, Charles S. Hastings, George W. Hill, Joseph Le Conte, O. C. Marsh, Alfred M. Mayer, Richmond Mayo-Smith, T. C. Mendenhall, Arthur Michael, A. A. Michelson, S. Weir Mitchell, Simon Newcomb, A. S. Packard, Charles S. Pierce, Ira Remsen, Ogden N. Rood, Henry A. Rowland, Charles S. Sargent, A. E. Verrill, Francis A. Walker, William H. Welch, R. S. Wood-There were thirty-six members in attendance, seven more than at the corresponding meeting a year ago at Philadel-The following papers were entered to be read: