SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N Y.

*THE IMPORTANCE OF ASTROPHYSICAL RESEARCH AND THE RELATION OF ASTROPHYSICS TO OTHER PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

THE domains of the physical sciences are not, like the political divisions represented on a map, capable of being defined by boundary lines traced with mathematical precision. They pass into one another by imperceptible gradations, the unity of nature opposing itself to rigid systems of classification. Thus there often exists between two allied sciences a broad ground, belonging to each, yet exclusively the property of neither, which may be so extensive and fertile as to justify the development of a new science for its special cultivation. And such a science not only subserves the purpose for which it was created, but it has the further special importance that, by promoting an exchange of knowledge between its previously established neighbors, by investigating the cause of disagreements between them, by comparing their methods, and possibly by detecting errors in their results, it tends to bring them into more perfect coordination.

Such is the nature of the science which Professor Langley has called the new astronomy, and which is also, and perhaps more generally, known as astrophysics. Its

*Address delivered at the dedicatory exercises of the Yerkes Astronomical Observatory, of the University of Chicago, Williams Bay, Wis., Thursday, October 21, 1897.