

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1898.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN ASTRONOMY (I).*

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THE American Association for the Advancement of Science has now completed an existence of half a century. It has become one of the leading scientific institutions of this country. Since its organization fifty years ago the world has advanced with wonderful rapidity in all directions, and especially in the various fields of science. It is hardly too much to say that the scientific progress in the last half century far exceeds all that was done in the preceding thousand years. The life of this Association practically covers the development and comparative perfection of many of the sciences. This is especially true of the wonderful art of photography. At the beginning of the work of this Association the great discovery of making pictures by the natural light of the sun had just been made, and while it aroused a widespread interest all over the world at that time there were very few who dreamed of the great future value of photography in the arts and sciences. One of those who saw something of the future of Daguerre's discovery was the celebrated Scottish astronomer Dr. Dick, whose works on popular astronomy are still useful and delightful reading. In his 'Practical Astronomer,' published in 1845, he said:

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

*Address of the Vice-President before Section A—Mathematics and Astronomy—of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, August 22, 1898.