

to men of science, we may be prejudiced, but it does seem that 'Mr. Punch' is always a gentleman, whereas *Life* is on occasion distinctly vulgar.

THE Rev. J. G. Hagen, of the Georgetown College Observatory, announces that the first series of charts of his Atlas of Variable Stars is nearly printed and will be issued in a few weeks. The cost of engraving and printing the whole Atlas will be about \$7,000 and, though one-fourth of this sum has been given by Miss Catherine Bruce, it is necessary that one hundred subscribers to the entire series be obtained in order that expenses of engraving and printing can be guaranteed and its completion secured. The present series contains twenty-four charts and is sold to subscribers to the whole series at one Mark per chart. The work is published by Herr. F. L. Dames, of Berlin, but subscriptions may be sent through the Harvard College Observatory or through the Georgetown College Observatory.

#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

*Terrestrial Magnetism* for December, 1898, contains the following articles: 'Report of the Permanent Committee on Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity to the International Meteorological Conference'; 'The Toronto Magnetic Observatory,' R. F. Stupart; 'The Attitude of the Aurora above the Earth's Surface' (concluded), C. Abbe; 'Bigelow's Solar and Terrestrial Magnetism,' reviewed by Arthur Schuster; 'Notes on the Magnetic Storm of November 21st-22d, and on the Secular Motion of a Free Magnetic Needle,' by L. A. Bauer. Mr. Stupart in his article describes the new Toronto Magnetic Observatory, situated at Agincourt, nine miles northeast of the old and disturbed site. Beginning with March, 1899, the name of the journal is to be changed to *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity*. It has been found necessary to enlarge the periodical somewhat, and, in consequence, the subscription price has been increased from \$2 to \$2.50. It will be conducted, as heretofore, by L. A. Bauer and Thomas French, Jr., both of the University of Cincinnati. The editors will be assisted by Messrs. Eschenhagen (Pots-

dam), Moureaux (Paris), Littlehales (Washington), Schuster (Manchester), Elster and Geitel (Wolfenbüttel), McAdie (New Orleans), and by an international council consisting of Rücker (England), von Bezold (Germany), Mascart (France), Rykatschew (Russia), Mendenhall and Schott (America).

*The American Journal of Science* for January contains the following articles:

'Thermodynamic Relations of Hydrated Glass,' by C. Barus; 'Platinum and Iridium in Meteoric Iron,' by J. M. Davison; 'Studies in the Cyperaceae,' by T. Holm; 'Regnault's Calorie and our Knowledge of the Specific Volumes of Steam,' by G. P. Starkweather; 'Estimation of Boric Acid,' by F. A. Gooch and L. C. Jones; 'Descriptions of imperfectly known and new Actinians,' with critical notes and other species, II.; by A. E. Verrill; 'Mineralogical Notes,' by W. F. Hillebrand; 'What is the Loess?' by F. W. Sardeson; 'Absorption of Gases in a High Vacuum,' by C. C. Hutchins.

*Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* for January gives as a frontispiece a portrait of August Kekulé and a sketch of his life and contributions to science follows. Among the other articles in the number are 'The Mind's Eye,' by Professor Joseph Jastrow, illustrating the part played by mental processes in visual perception; an argument by Professor G. T. W. Patrick, maintaining that children under ten should not be taught to read and write; and nature study in the Philadelphia Normal School, by Mrs. L. L. W. Wilson.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### THE NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE ninth annual meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences was held at Lincoln, November 25 and 26, 1898.

The address of the retiring President, Dr. H. B. Ward, was upon the 'Fresh-water Biological Stations of the World.'

These were divided into individual resorts for independent investigation, periodical resorts where groups of scientists go for a portion of the year, and permanent stations where work is carried on throughout the year by resident investigators. The best results can only be expected in the latter class, which are necessarily under government protection.