waters about Spitzbergen (see *Fauna Arctica* edited by F. Römer and F. Schaudinn, Vol. 1, Jena, 1900). On the eastern side of the island the fauna is richer, species and individuals more numerous than on the west coast; in the former tract, moreover, the fauna is markedly benthonic, in the latter planktonic. These contracts are referred to the action of currents. While Gulf Stream water occupies the sea west and north of Spitzbergen it is intimately mixed with the cold water of the polar current on the east. In this zone of mixture the stenothermic and stenohalinic organisms of the plankton are killed, and thus furnish an abundant rain of food for the bottom forms. So thickly planted were the hydroids and bryozoa that at times the heavy dredge did not penetrate to the true bottom at all, but came up full of these organisms. A table of hydrographical observations appears in the narrative of the voyage.

Reginald A. Daly.

Harvard University.

A NEW STAR IN AQUILA.

From an examination of the Draper Memorial photographs, Mrs. Fleming has discovered a new star in the constellation Aquila. Its position for 1900 is R. A. $=19^h\ 15^m\ 16^s$, Dec. $= -0°\ 19'.2$. It was too faint to be photographed on 96 plates taken between August 21, 1886, and November 1, 1898, although stars as faint as the thirteenth magnitude are visible on some of them. It appears on 18 photographs taken between April 21, 1899, and October 27, 1899. On April 21st it was of the seventh magnitude, and on October 27, 1899, of the tenth magnitude. Two photographs taken on July 7, and July 9, 1900, show that the star is still visible, and that its photographic magnitude is about 11.5. A photograph taken on July 3, 1899, shows that its spectrum resembled those of other new stars, while a photograph taken on October 27, 1899, shows that the spectrum resembled those of gaseous nebulæ.

On July 9, 1900, the object was observed with the 15-inch Equatorial by Professor Wendell, who estimated its magnitude as 11.5 to 12.0, and confirmed the monochromatic character of its spectrum.

E. C. Pickering.

Harvard College Observatory.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY.

The following resolutions have been approved by Council of the American Chemical Society:

Whereas, the laws of the several states controlling food adulterations are largely ineffective because of the interference of interstate commerce laws, and can be made effective only through national legislation,

And whereas, by bills now pending in the Congress of the United States and particularly by bills numbered H. R. 9677 and Senate 2426, it is proposed to establish in the United States Department of Agriculture a bureau of chemistry, the director of which shall, under the direction of the secretary of agriculture, be charged with the chemical investigation of the foods produced and consumed throughout the country.

Therefore be it resolved by the Council of the American Chemical Society that the Congress of the United States be, and is hereby, urged to promptly enact into law the said bills, namely H. R. 9677, and Senate 2426, and provide adequate facilities for effective prosecution of the provisions of the said bills.

Resolved, further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the president of the United States Senate; to the speaker of the House of Representatives; to the chairman of the Committees on Agriculture and on Commerce and Manufactures of the Senate of the United States; to the chairman of the Committee on Interstate Commerce of the House of Representatives; to the secretary of agriculture, who shall be charged with the enforcement of the provisions of said bills, and to the presiding officers of the various sections of the Society, urging their co-operation in the movement to secure the establishment of the bureau of chemistry, which shall be charged with the scientific and chemical work required in the enforcement of the provisions of the said bills.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

M. Giard has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of anatomy and physiology in the room of the late Milne-Edwards. He received 30 votes, 16