

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1900.

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

## THE INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE.

AT the end of last month the Smithsonian Institution sent out a circular letter inviting various bodies in America to subscribe for a period of five years to the proposed International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. At an early stage of the deliberations concerning the Catalogue, it became evident that the necessary financial basis for the undertaking could not be secured on the plan of direct contributions from the several countries interested in the matter. An adequate basis however presented itself in the form of guaranteed subscriptions for a certain period; and it was calculated that a guarantee of subscriptions of about 300 complete sets would justify the work being begun. The German government undertook to subscribe for 45 complete sets for five years; other governments undertook subscriptions of lesser amounts; the Royal Society guaranteed that 45 copies should be subscribed for in Great Britain and Ireland; and, at the close of the International Conference, in June last, the financial prospects were found to be such that if subscriptions for 45 complete sets for five years, in the United States of America, could be assured, the work might at once be put in hand. The Smithsonian Institution undertook the task of asking for subscriptions; hence the circular in question.

Visiting Washington on Tuesday, last, I had the extremegratification of learning that