

occurred, while from all other positions immediate and direct orientation with anterior end toward the kathode followed the closing of the circuit. On reversing the current, it was seen that the animals always gained the new orientation with anterior end to the new kathode by turning to the *right*. The fact was shown that sudden breaking (as well as reversal) of the current always caused the typical motor reflex that is given by the organism as a response to stimuli of other sorts—the animal always turning to its right.

3. The kataphoric effect of currents of moderate intensity in carrying *Chilomonas* and suspended particles in the water toward the anode was shown.

Following the demonstrations an account was given of the electrotactic reaction of a number of infusoria, and the bearing of the results on the recent work of other investigators was discussed. Reference was made to the reactions of some of the lower Metazoa which resemble in many ways the reactions of the infusoria.

H. S. JENNINGS,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

CORRECTION TO ANDRÉ'S ASTRONOMIE STELLAIRE.

THE favorable notice of André's 'Traité d'astronomie stellaire' contained in the number of SCIENCE for April 19, 1901, leads me to call attention to the following curious error contained in that work, which appears to have escaped the notice of all its reviewers.

In Vol. I., § 225, the author seeks to account for the well-known fact of a progressive variation in the periodic time—interval from minimum to minimum—of certain variable stars, and resorting to the hypothesis of a uniform

motion in the line of sight, he proceeds by elementary mathematical methods to derive the effect of this motion in altering the periodic time of the light variations. It is almost self-evident that the effect of this motion is to produce a small but constant difference between the true period, and that furnished by observation, and this result is confirmed by the author's analysis when properly executed. But at the equation marked (2) in the text, André commits the algebraic error of dividing two terms of his equation by a certain factor, $n' - n$, while neglecting to divide the third term and obtains thereby an erroneous result which he interprets, correctly enough so far as the equation itself is concerned, as showing that the star's radial velocity produces a progressive change in the periodic time of its light variations. He applies this equation to certain well-known variables having secular terms in their light equations, and derives from purely photometric data, numerical values for their motion in the line of sight, which, although plausible enough in respect of magnitude, are entirely wrong in principle. The entire section entitled 'Terme séculaire' should be suppressed since it is completely vitiated by the algebraic error noted above.

GEORGE C. COMSTOCK.

AN APPEAL FOR COOPERATION IN MAGNETIC AND ALLIED OBSERVATIONS DURING THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE, MAY 17-18, 1901.

To further test the results obtained by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey during the total solar eclipse of May 28, 1900, arrangements are being made for obtaining simultaneous observations of the magnetic elements and of allied phenomena over the entire globe during the next total solar eclipse, May 17-18, 1901.*

* CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ECLIPSE.

	Greenwich Mean Time.				Longitude from Gr.	Latitude.
Eclipse begins	May 17 d.	14 h.	59 m.	.9	51° 34'.4 E.	20° 21'.9 S.
Central eclipse begins	17	15	57	.6	40 11.2 E.	27 27.6 S.
Central eclipse at noon	17	17	28	.8	96 51.9 E.	2 07.1 S.
Central eclipse ends	17	19	10	.2	156 53.6 E.	12 49.0 S.
Eclipse ends	17	20	07	.9	145 04.5 E.	5 38.0 S.