the President in Mr. Schott's hands, and in doing so he alluded in the following words to the international character of the prize, and to the catholicity of scientific work:

"I have great pleasure in placing in your hands the formal papers which convey to you the 'Wilde Prize.' This prize, founded by an Englishman who has a deep interest in science, has been adjudged to you by a committee of eminent men chosen from the most famous organized body of scientists in the world—the Institute of France. According to the terms accepted by the Institute of France in founding the prize, it was to be given to the person from any nation whose discoveries in physics or mathematics, mechanics, chemistry or geology are most valuable, or whose original researches in these branches of science have been most successful. The prize has been awarded to you for researches in the important field of terrestrial magnetism.

"I congratulate you and American science, and in particular the Coast and Geodetic Survey (the scientific organization of which you are a member), that you have been chosen from all the world as the most worthy to receive this great honor.

"It is especially pleasant in this age when international relations are of high importance, when the methods of modern applied science have brought all nations, however geographically remote, into close contact, to know that in science there are no international boundaries; and no pleasanter proof of this catholic spirit could well be given than this fine prize—one of the highest that can be conferred by a scientific body—founded by an Englishman, has been awarded by a Frenchman and won by an American."

Mr. Schott's ability and attainments have been widely recognized by learned bodies and scientific societies as shown by his election to membership on the following dates:

1871. Philosophical Society of Washington, D. C. (Founder).

1872. National Academy of Sciences.

1874. American Association for Advancement of Science (Fellow).

1896. Sociedad Cientifico Antonio Alzate, Mexico.

1898. Washington Academy of Sciences (Founder). Accademia Giocenia di Scienze Naturali, in Catania, Sicily.

The long list of publications bearing Mr. Schott's name bear testimony to his untiring industry and his devotion to the interest of the service, which he honored as a member and to the advancement of human knowledge. ISAAC WINSTON.

GEORGE K. LAWTON.

IN the unexpected death of George K. Lawton, of the U. S. Naval Observatory, a young astronomer of great promise has passed away. The loss to American astronomy can be appreciated as yet only by those who had the good fortune to know him intimately. He was born October 20, 1873, and died at Washington, July 25, 1901, after a brief illness of twelve days, of typhoid fever; and was thus less than twenty-eight years of age. Under the guidance of his father, Professor U. W. Lawton, of Jackson, Michigan, he had enjoyed from childhood excellent educational advantages, and in 1895 graduated in classics at the University of Michigan, where he also pursued advanced astronomical studies under Professor Asaph Hall, Jr., at the Detroit Observatory. He then spent a year in post-graduate study at the University of Chicago, where the writer had the honor to be one of his teachers. He showed distinguished abilities in the study of celestial mechanics and of higher mathematics. He was afterwards attached to the Observatory of Yale University for a short time, occupied mainly with work on meteors; and then came to the Naval Observatory as one of the regular computers. In 1897 he took the degree of M.A. at the University of Michigan. While attached to this Observatory he participated in all the transit circle observations of the past five years, much of which has recently appeared in the *Publications of the U. S. Naval Observatory*, Vol. I., new series. Last year he bore an important part in the observations of the total eclipse of the sun, at Pinehurst, North Carolina. More recently he took a leading part in the reductions and revision of the Eros observations of this Ob-

servatory, and has been occupied partly with equatorial work. Only a month ago he was assigned to the 26-inch equatorial, and had entered upon researches of great promise.

On account of his extreme modesty, and the arrearages of our publications, his scientific reputation at the time of his death was in no way commensurate with his merits. Yet he was already a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and last year participated in the meeting of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America.

His mind was developed in admirable symmetry and harmony, and his scholarship was almost as good in Latin and Greek and general literature as in modern science. He had that happy faculty of cool, quiet judgment, combined with good nature, which made him adequate to any occasion. Besides possessing scientific and literary talents of a high order, he was of a very high-minded and noble disposition, universally beloved by his associates. Unseen by men he continually did many acts of benevolence, and bestowed gracious remembrances which add to the charm of life and make us realize that the high types written of long ago have not wholly passed away. He was an active member of St. Thomas's Church in this city and of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. During his residence here of five years, he became fairly well known in the city, more by the reputation of his high character than by any very extensive mingling with the people. When the writer had to send the saddest of messages to his grief-stricken family, the telegraph operator who knew him only by reputation was nearly overcome, and said,' That good man is not long for this world.' In all my experience I have never met quite so modest, so noble, and so lovely a character.

The sudden death of Mr. Lawton, almost at the very beginning of what promised to be a brilliant career, has cast a deep gloom over the entire Observatory. He was indeed the noblest of the noble, and his place can never be filled.

T. J. J. SEE.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
July 27, 1901.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

Astronomischer Jahresbericht. Mit Unterstützung der Astronomischen Gesellschaft herausgegeben von WALTER F. WISLICENUS. II. Band, enthaltend die Litteratur des Jahres 1900. Berlin, Georg Reimer. 8vo. Pp. xxv + 631. Price, M. 19.

This series of annual volumes, whose somewhat cumbrous title is officially abbreviated to the symbol AJB, owes its inception to its editor, Professor Wislicenus, who in September, 1898, submitted to the Astronomische Gesellschaft a well-elaborated plan for a yearbook that should serve both as an annual summary of current astronomical literature and as a bibliography sufficiently complete for the use of students and other investigators. The proposal was favorably received by the Society, which not only gave its official sanction and pecuniary support to the undertaking, but also appointed a committee, consisting of Professors Seeliger, Bruns and Müller, to confer with the editor as to the contents of the future volumes and the manner of their arrangement.

The plans thus agreed upon and incorporated in the first volume, that for 1899, have been closely followed in principle in the present volume, although with greater completeness of detail, as is shown by the addition of nearly a hundred pages to its size. That so few modifications should be found necessary in the second year of publication is sufficient indication that future volumes may be expected to appear in substantially the same form and character as the two already issued.

Premising that in its entire scope the AJB is to be purely expository and not critical in its summaries, the editor indicates it to be his purpose to treat with all possible completeness the purely scientific and technical literature of