### ANOTHER HODGKINS GOLD MEDAL AWARDED.

In March last, Secretary Langley, of the Smithsonian Institution, appointed a committee to consider whether any discovery had been made since the award of the first Hodgkins Gold Medal in 1899, under the general terms of the gift, 'the increase and diffusion of more exact knowledge in regard to the nature and properties of atmospheric air in connection with the welfare of man,' which would render it proper that such a medal should be again awarded. This committee consisted of the following distinguished men of science: Mr. Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Chairman; Doctor A. Graham Bell, for electricity; Doctor Ira Remsen, for chemistry; Doctor Charles D. Walcott, for geology; Professor E. C. Pickering, for astronomy; Doctor Theodore N. Gill, for biology; Professor Cleveland Abbe, for meteorology; Mr. William H. Holmes, for anthropology, and Mr. S. W. Stratton, for physics.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Rathbun, Doctor Remsen served as chairman at a meeting of the committee held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, April 15, 1902. At this meeting the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

> That the committee recommend to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution that it is desirable that one of the Hodgkins gold medals be struck, and that it be awarded to J. J. Thomson, of Cambridge, England, for his investigations on the conductivity of gases, especially on the gases that compose the atmospheric air.

The finding of the committee being approved by the secretary, steps were at once taken to have the second Hodgkins gold medal struck under the personal supervision of its designer, Monsieur J. C. Chaplain, of Paris. The medal has recently been received by the Institution and has been despatched to Professor Thomson through the Department of State.

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### THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

The Academy held its autumn meeting at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, on November 11 and 12. The scientific program was as follows:

'A Possible Explanation of the Difficult Solubility of Certain Compounds Containing Fluorine and Hydroxyl,' S. L. Penfield.

'The Spectra of Stars of Secchi's Fourth Type,' George E. Hale.

'Biographical Memoir of Henry A. Rowland,' T. C. Mendenhall.

'The Embryology of *Salpa Cordiformis*,' W. K. Brooks.

'The Occurrence of Reef Corals near Beaufort, N. C.,' Caswell Grave (introduced by W. K. Brooks).

'The Trematode Parasites of the Oyster,' D. H. Tennent (introduced by W. K. Brooks).

'The Preparation of Cells for the Measurement of Osmotic Pressure,' H. N. Morse (introduced by Ira Remsen).

'A Substance with Remarkable Optical Properties, and Screens Transparent only to Ultra-Violet Light,' R. W. Wood (introduced by Ira Remsen).

'On Displacement Currents,' J. B. Whitehead (introduced by Ira Remsen).

'On the Spectrum of Hydrogen,' L. A. Parsons (introduced by Ira Remsen).

'A New System of Positions for Standard Stars, with Notes relative to its bearing upon Sidereal Astronomy,' Lewis Boss.

'Complete Skeleton and Restoration of the Cretaceous Fish *Portheus Molossus* Cope,' H. F. Osborn.

'A New Small Dinosaur from the Jurassic or Como Beds of Wyoming, apparently a Bird-catcher,' H. F. Osborn.

'New or little-known Elephants and Mastodons of North America,' H. F. Osborn.

'On Elevated Oceanic Islands in the Pacific,' A. Agassiz.

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### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

We regret to announce the death of Professor Ogden Nicholas Rood which occurred from pleuropneumonia at his home in New York City on November 12. He was born in Danbury, Conn., in 1831, graduated from Princeton College in 1852, spent four years in study in Germany, from 1858 to 1863 was professor of chemistry and physics at Troy University and has for the past thirty-nine years been professor of physics in Columbia University. Professor Rood had been vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was eminent for his researches in experimental