

*OBSERVATORY AND PHYSICAL LABORATORY AT WASHBURN COLLEGE.*

WASHBURN COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, Topeka, Kansas, was dedicated September 18. The address was delivered by Professor C. L. Doolittle of the Flower Observatory. The equipment now comprises the 11½-in. 'Grand Prix' refractor exhibited by Warner and Swasey at the Paris Exhibition, a five-inch photographic doublet, 7-centimeter combined transit and zenith telescope, sextant, mean time break circuit chronometer and a standard chronograph. There will be added at once a mean time and a sidereal clock, a position micrometer, a computing machine and a working library of star charts and catalogues, tables, standard works of reference and observatory publications. Provision is also made for a meridian circle and spectroscopic outfit. The dome is a 26-foot, copper covered, by Warner and Swasey. There is a dark room, a clock and reception room, an apparatus room, library and computing room, and recitation room. Adjacent to the observatory are the new physical laboratories and mathematical rooms. On the ground floor are the heat and electrical laboratories and shop; on the main floor the lecture-room, apparatus room, offices, general laboratory, light and spectroscopy room and a room for special or advanced work. Both the observatory and the laboratories are the gift of an eastern man who has not allowed his name to be announced in connection with the gift.

*THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

THE attendance at the Southport meeting of the British Association was 1,754, consisting of 250 old life members, 21 new life members, 319 old annual subscribers, 90 new annual subscribers, 688 associates, 365 ladies, and 21 foreign members. This is slightly larger than the attendance at the Belfast meeting last year and is not far from the average of recent meetings, but falls short of the attendance of the Southport meeting of 1883 by nearly 1000. The International Meteorological Committee sat during the meeting of the British Asso-

ciation, the members being received by the Mayor of the city, previous to their session. The receipts of the Association last year were £4,117, and the expenditure £3,468, a balance being brought forward from last year of £1,565. The invested funds of the Association amount to £10,101. £2,465 was subscribed locally at the Southport meeting. The list of grants, as reported in the English journals, is as follows:

*Mathematics and Physics.*

Lord Rayleigh, 'Electrical Standards,' Unexpended balance.

Professor J. W. Judd, 'Seismological Observations,' £40.

Dr. W. N. Shaw, 'Upper Atmosphere Investigations,' £50 and unexpended balance.

Sir W. H. Preece, 'Magnetic Observations,' £60.

*Chemistry.*

Sir H. Roscoe, 'Wave-length Tables of Spectra,' £10.

Professor E. Divers, 'Study of Hydroaromatics,' £25.

*Geology.*

Mr. J. E. Marr, 'Erratic Blocks,' £10 and balance in hand.

Dr. R. F. Scharff, 'To Explore Irish Caves,' balance in hand.

Professor W. W. Watts, 'Movements of Underground Waters,' balance in hand.

Mr. J. E. Marr, 'Life Zones in Carboniferous Rocks,' £35.

Professor W. A. Herdman, 'Fauna and Flora of the Trias,' £10.

Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, 'To Investigate Fossiliferous Drifts,' £50.

*Zoology.*

Professor S. J. Hickson, 'Zoological Table at Naples,' £100.

Dr. H. Woodward, 'Index Animalium,' £60.

Professor W. F. R. Weldon, 'Investigations in Development in the Frog,' £15.

Professor S. J. Hickson, 'Researches on the Higher Crustacea,' £15.

*Economic Science and Statistics.*

Dr. E. Cannan, 'British and Foreign Statistics of International Trade,' £25.

*Mechanical Science.*

Sir J. J. Thornycroft, 'Resistance of Road Vehicles to Traction,' £90.

*Anthropology.*

Sir John Evans, 'Archeological and Ethnological Researches in Crete,' £100.

Dr. R. Munro, 'Researches in Glastonbury Lake Village,' £25.

Professor A. Macalister, 'Anthropometric Investigation on Egyptian Troops,' £10.

Dr. A. J. Evans, 'Excavations on Roman Sites in Britain,' £25.

*Physiology.*

Professor W. D. Halliburton, 'The State of Solution of Proteids,' £20.

Professor F. Gotch, 'Metabolism of Individual Tissues,' £40.

*Botany.*

Professor S. H. Vines, 'Completion of Monograph on Potamogeton,' £10.

Professor L. C. Miall, 'Botanical Photographs,' £5.

Professor M. Ward, 'Respiration of Plants,' £15.

Professor M. Ward, 'Experimental Studies in Heredity,' £35.

*Corresponding Societies.*

Mr. W. Whitaker, £20.

Making a total of £900.

The following resolutions by the committee of recommendations were agreed to:

That, as urged by the president in his address, it is desirable that scientific workers, and persons interested in science, be so organized that they may exert permanent influence on public opinion in order more effectively to carry out the third object of this association, originally laid down by the founders—namely, to obtain a more general attention to the objects of science, and a removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which impede its progress—and that the council be recommended to take steps to promote such organization.

That the council be requested to consider the desirability of urging upon the Government, by a deputation to the First Lord of the Treasury or otherwise, the importance of increased national provision being made for University education.

A resolution was also approved to the effect that the sectional committees should be continued in existence until their successors were appointed, and should be authorized to bring to the notice of the council, in the intervals between the meetings of the Association, any

matters in which the action of the council might be desirable. The appointment of twenty-six committees without grants was approved.

The following resolutions presented to the committee of recommendations by section A were approved:

That the attention of the council be called to the utility which would result from obtaining more uniformity in the units adopted in meteorology and to the fact that the moment has come for bringing about such uniformity.

That the systematic investigation of the upper currents of the atmosphere by means of kites or balloons is of great importance to meteorology, and that the council be asked to take such steps as they may think fit to urge upon the treasury the importance of providing the Meteorological Council with the funds necessary for the purpose.

At a meeting of the general committee the names of Professor Simon Newcomb, of Washington, Professor L. Boltzmann, of Leipzig, and Professor Mascart, of Paris, were added to the vice-presidents of Section A. Dr. W. A. Herdman was elected one of the secretaries of the Association in the room of Dr. B. H. Scott. The Association will meet on August 17, 1904, at Cambridge, under the presidency of Mr. Arthur Balfour, the prime minister. The following year the meeting will be in South Africa, the governments of Cape Colony, Natal and other colonies having appropriated £6,000 to assist in the transportation of members.

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.*

DR. W. A. NOYES, of the Rose Polytechnic Institute, has accepted the position of chemist in the National Bureau of Standards. During the present year while the laboratories are in course of erection, Professor Noyes will enjoy the hospitality of the Johns Hopkins University.

PROFESSOR GEORGE H. DARWIN, of Cambridge University, has been elected associate of the Belgian Academy of Sciences in the room of the late Professor Stokes.

DR. M. P. RAVENEL has been appointed assistant medical director and chief of the