

SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-Hudson, N. Y.

THE LOBACHEVSKI PRIZE.

THE third award of the great Lobachevski prize was the occasion for considering particularly the achievements of two men during the past five years. The first of these is Professor Hilbert, of Goettingen; the second, Professor Barbarin, of Bordeaux.

The committee asked from the most distinguished of French mathematicians, Poincaré, a report on those works of Hilbert relevant to the decision.

With French thrift, Poincaré used as the greater part of this report a review of Hilbert's 'Grundlagen' which had already been published three times, two parts of which I quoted in my St. Louis address, to point out two errors (SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. XIX., No. 480, pp. 401-413). But the works to be considered included others which had only appeared after that review was written, so that Poincaré was compelled to recast and supplement this review of his, and some of these additions are of high interest.

Our ideas, he says, on the origin and scope of geometric verities have, since a century, evolved in a very rapid way. The creations of Lobachevski, of Bolyai, of Riemann have inaugurated a new era. Certes they have not discouraged the men, only too numerous, who seek to demonstrate the postulatum of Euclid. These, alas! nothing could discourage. But they have convinced all the true savants of the inanity of such an attempt. This was the first result of the invention of the non-Euclidean geometries. Lie pushed the