

SCIENCE:

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JOHN MICHELS, Editor.

TERMS:

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SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1881.

PROFESSOR LEWIS SWIFT informs us that he has been receiving letters claiming the Warner Prize, at the rate of seventy per day for some time past; it may be convenient, therefore, if we state the conditions on which Mr. Warner offers the reward for the discovery of comets during the year 1881.

In the first place the comet must be telescopic, which is a bar to all naked eye observers, and the comet must be unexpected. An exception is made to this condition in favor of the comet of 1812, the re-appearance of which is expected.

The first discovery of the comet must be made in the United States or Canada. To secure the prize immediate notification must be made by telegraph to Professor Lewis Swift, of Rochester, Director of the Warner Observatory. This telegram must give the time of the discovery, the position, direction and daily rate of motion with sufficient exactness to enable at least one astronomer to find it.

A study of these conditions will prevent useless applications and many disappointments. The first condition, however, which appears to limit claimants to the class who possess telescopes, should, in our opinion, be construed to object to naked eye observations only. A good opera or field binocular glass could be used with good effect in a search for comets. Caroline Herschell used a very simple instrument, and, in the course of her life, discovered no less than eight comets. With a tube with two glasses, such as was commonly used "as a finder," she used to "sweep" for comets, writing down and describing all remarkable appearances.

We direct attention to a series of interesting drawings of comet B, 1881, made by Professor Edward S.

Holden at the Washburn Observatory, with the 15-inch telescope, constructed for the late Professor Watson, which will be found on pages 346 and 347 of this issue.

Professor Holden has attempted to delineate the appearance of the comet on six consecutive nights, commencing on the 24th of June, and also on the 8th and 11th of July.

Messrs. S. E. Cassino & Co., of 299 Washington street, Boston, are about to publish an international directory of the names and addresses of all those who are engaged in any of the departments of Science. Such a work can only be arranged in a satisfactory manner with the co-operation of scientific men. We therefore cordially respond to a request from Messrs. Cassino to make known their intentions in this direction, and we call upon all scientists at once to forward their names and addresses to the publisher.

This notice is not only intended for professional scientists, but for the large class of amateurs, who may be collecting, or giving their attention to any scientific specialty.

As the directory is partly prepared, prompt attention is essential to those who would have their names included.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

WE remind our readers that the annual meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science will be held this year at Cincinnati, commencing on the 17th of August next. The executive committee announce that the sessions of the Association will be held in the Music Hall and Exposition Buildings, on Elm street. All the meetings, general and sectional, will be under one roof. Each section will have a room regularly assigned to it, and every necessary facility in the way of tables, blackboards, etc., will be provided. The offices of the Permanent and Local Secretaries, Reporters' Room, Post Office and Reception Rooms will all be on the first floor. Between the morning and afternoon sessions a daily lunch will be served in the wing of the Exposition Buildings known as Horticultural Hall.

On the first day of the meeting, besides the general session for organization, some of the official addresses will be delivered. In the evening there will be a citizens' reception.

On the following days the usual routine business will be transacted, papers will be read, and so on. A variety of social entertainments will be provided, and an afternoon is to be devoted to visiting the Zoological Garden.

Members of the Sub-Section of Anthropology, and others who are interested, will have an opportunity to examine the excavations at Madisonville, and to visit other localities of antiquarian interest near Cincinnati. After the adjournment of the Association, excursions will be organized on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, and also, it is hoped, to the Mammoth Cave.

Beginning on the evening of August 16, and continuing through the meetings of the Association, there will be an exhibition of scientific apparatus, appliances, and collections. This exhibition is to be in charge of the Department of Science and Arts of the Ohio Mechanics' Institute, and a large amount of valuable material will be shown. Some of the leading dealers in chemicals, ap-