THE HARVARD CONFERENCE.

The selection of the Harvard College Observatory as the place of meeting for the Second Annual Conference of astronomers and astrophysicists doubtless had much to do with the highly successful outcome of the gathering. The numerous instruments, many of them operated by automatic devices, together with the unrivaled collection of celestial photographs, afforded the visitors opportunities for study not to be found elsewhere. The meetings were held in the drawing-room of the Director's residence, which was most hospitably thrown open for the occasion. At the conclusion of the first morning's session, the members of the conference were entertained at luncheon by Professor and Mrs. Pickering, and on the second day similar entertainment was provided at Memorial Hall by the President and Fellows of Harvard University. On the third day, after the adjournment of the regular sessions, a large party visited the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory at the invitation of the proprietor, Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch. Ample opportunity was afforded between the sessions for the inspection of the laboratories and museums of Harvard University, while the members of the Observatory staff were always ready to assist visitors in their examination of the instruments and photographs so bountifully displayed.

The following persons were registered as attending the conference:

Mr. C. G. Abbott, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Washington, D. C.
Professor S. I. Bailey, Harvard College Observatory, Arequipa, Peru.
Professor E. E. Barnard, Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis.
Mr. N. E. Bennett, Wilmington, O.
Mr. S. H. Brackett, St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Professor H. S. Carhart, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Dr. F. J. Chase, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
Mr. H. Helm Clayton, Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Hyde Park, Mass.
Mr. H. R. Colson, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
Professor George C. Comstock, Washburn Observatory, Madison, Wis.
Professor Charles R. Cross, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.
Professor A. E. Dolbear, Tufts College, Somerville, Mass.
Miss H. R. Donaghe, Morristown, N. J.
Professor C. L. Doolittle, Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Pa.
Professor J. R. Eastman, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.
Dr. W. S. Eichelberger, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.
Professor W. L. Elkin, Yale University Observatory, New Haven, Conn.
Mr. S. P. Fergusson, Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Hyde Park, Mass.
Professor R. A. Fessenden, Western University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Pa.
Professor A. S. Flint, Washburn Observatory, Madison, Wis.
Professor Edgar Frisby, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.
Mr. R. H. Frost, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
Miss Caroline E. Furness, Vassar College Observatory, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Professor H. M. Goodwin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.
Miss Ida Griffiths, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Rev. J. G. Hagen, Georgetown College Observatory, Georgetown, D. C.
Professor George E. Hale, Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis.
Mr. J. F. Hayford, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.
Miss Lillian Hodgdon, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
Professor G. W. Hough, Dearborn Observatory, Evanston, Ill.
Professor Harold Jacoby, Columbia University, New York City.
Mr. E. S. King, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. Lawrence La Forge, Cambridge, Mass.
Professor F. H. Loud, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Mr. Carl Lundin, Cambridgeport, Mass.
Dr. Alex. Macfarlane, Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Pa.
Professor C. H. McLeod, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
Professor Dayton C. Miller, Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, O.
Professor E. W. Morley, Adelbert College, Cleveland, O.
Professor G. W. Myers, University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.
Professor Simon Newcomb, Washington, D. C.
Mr. H. M. Parkhurst, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Professor H. M. Paul, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.
Professor Charles Lane Poor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
Miss Mary Proctor, New York City, N. Y.
Mr. F. G. Radelfinger, Nautical Almanac Office, Washington, D. C.
Mr. W. Maxwell Reed, Andover, Mass.
Mr. Charles H. Rockwell, The Observatory, Tarrytown, N. Y.
Mr. Jonathan T. Rorer, Central High School Observatory, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Hyde Park, Mass.
Professor W. C. Sabine, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. F. E. Seagrave, Private Observatory, Providence, R. I.
Professor A. N. Skinner, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Frederick Slocum, Ladd Observatory, Providence, R. I.
Professor M. B. Snyder, Central High School Observatory, Philadelphia, Pa.
Rev. John Stein, Leyden, Netherlands.
Miss M. C. Stevens, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. Charles E. St. John, Oberlin, O.
Mr. A. E. Sweetland, Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Hyde Park, Mass.
Professor D. P. Todd, Amherst College Observatory, Amherst, Mass.
Professor Winslow Upton, Ladd Observatory, Providence, R. I.
Professor J. M. Van Vleck, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.
Professor F. W. Very, Providence, R. I.
Mr. Robert De C. Ward, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. W. R. Warner, Cleveland, O.
Professor A. G. Webster, Clark University, Worcester, Mass.
Professor O. C. Wendell, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
Professor F. P. Whitman, Adelbert College, Cleveland, O.
Miss Mary W. Whitney, Vassar College Observatory, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
MINOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND NOTES

Professor R. S. Woodward, Columbia University, New York City.
Mr. Paul S. Yendell, Dorchester, Mass.

As it is intended to publish in the November number of this JOURNAL abstracts of all the papers presented to the conference, no account of this part of the proceedings will be given here. Mention should be made, however, of certain actions of the conference which will not find a place in these proceedings.

In the Friday morning session, which was devoted to a discussion of various matters of general interest, the question of forming an astronomical and astrophysical society was considered, and referred to a committee, consisting of Professors Pickering, Newcomb, Comstock, Morley, and Hale. Before the committee was appointed it was resolved, by unanimous vote, that the annual conferences should be continued, either in their present form, or under the auspices of an organized society. The committee, in offering its report at the next session of the conference, recommended that a society be formed, and presented the first draft of a constitution. It also recommended that on the following Tuesday a meeting for the purpose of effecting a preliminary organization should be held by those who had previously signed a statement signifying their wish to become charter members of the society. The meeting was duly held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sixty-one persons having signed the statement. After a brief discussion, the same committee of five, with power to add four to its number, was appointed to act as the first council of the society. The duties of the committee include the drafting of a constitution, the election of members to the society, arrangements for the next meeting, and other business of a similar nature.

At the Friday morning session of the conference some time was devoted to a discussion of the United States Naval Observatory. No action was taken at this time, but on Saturday the following resolution, offered by Professor Flint, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the conference to consider the question of the proper organization and function of the United States Naval Observatory; to draw up resolutions expressing different representative views; to obtain signatures of astronomers and astrophysicists of the country; and to present the same in person to the Secretary of the Navy by January 1899, and to other authorities at their discretion.
Further, That said committee be instructed to cooperate with any other committees that may be appointed in this country to consider questions connected with the scientific functions of the national government; and to take such further action as may seem to said committee expedient.

The committee, appointed by ballot, consists of Professors Pickering, Comstock, and Hale. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its meeting in Boston, subsequently appointed a committee for a similar purpose, consisting of Professors Pickering, Mendenhall, and Woodward.

The total solar eclipse of May 28, 1900, was also discussed by the conference, and the chairman was instructed to appoint a committee to cooperate with observers and to take such action as might be deemed necessary to secure the best results. Professors Pickering, Barnard, and Comstock were named. At a subsequent session of the conference, the committee recommended that another committee, consisting of Professors Newcomb, Barnard, Campbell, and Hale, be appointed to act in its place. This recommendation was adopted, and the new committee was given power to add to its number should this seem desirable.

The committee on the Northern Durchmusterung, appointed at the Yerkes Observatory conference, reported that satisfactory progress was being made in printing the new edition. Largely through the efforts of the committee, the new edition has been freely subscribed for by American astronomers.

The best method of filling vacant positions in astronomy and physics was discussed by Professor Pickering. It was arranged that he should act as a committee of the new society on this subject. Those desiring to obtain positions, or having vacant positions which they wish to fill, may therefore advantageously communicate with him.

The meeting of the American Association in Boston during the week following the adjournment of the conference practically amounted to an extension of the Harvard meetings, so far as the astronomical work of Section A was concerned. Professor Barnard's important address on Astronomical Photography, and the numerous interesting papers presented to the Section, added greatly to the value of the previous week's proceedings. The conference had already enjoyed the hospitality of the Institute of Technology, as Professor Cross had provided a stereopticon for an evening meeting held there at his invi-