

On the death of Prof. Moseley, in 1891, I was appointed his successor in the Linacre chair of Human and Comparative Anatomy. The University voted funds for the building and fitting of additional laboratories for the Linacre professor (which were completed and opened without ceremony last year) at the same time that we approved the expenditure necessary for a new laboratory for Human Anatomy. At my suggestion a statute was prepared, and has received the assent of her Majesty in Council, removing the words "human and" from the title of the Linacre professor; so that the professorship in question is now the "Linacre professorship of Comparative Anatomy," whilst the duty of teaching anthropotomy or that special study of the topography of the human body which medical training requires, is definitely assigned to the "lecturer in Human Anatomy."

The consideration of human structure in relation to that of vertebrate animals—the morphology of man as of other animals—the "comparative" anatomy of man and

collections of Comparative Anatomy and Craniology, which are attached to the Linacre professorship, do not need advertisement; they have been rendered famous by the scientific discoveries and researches of those who in the past have held that office. Of the new rooms for the study of anthropotomy, we have the expectation that they will in the future, under the care of successive lecturers in Human Anatomy, add to the attractions of the University as a centre of professional training, and justify the policy which has led us to the expenditure necessary for their erection. E. RAY LANKESTER.

CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE PARIS OBSERVATORY.

A DESCRIPTION of the work that is being done in connection with the photographic star chart and catalogue is given in *La Nature* by M. A. Fraissinet. We are indebted to that journal for the accompanying

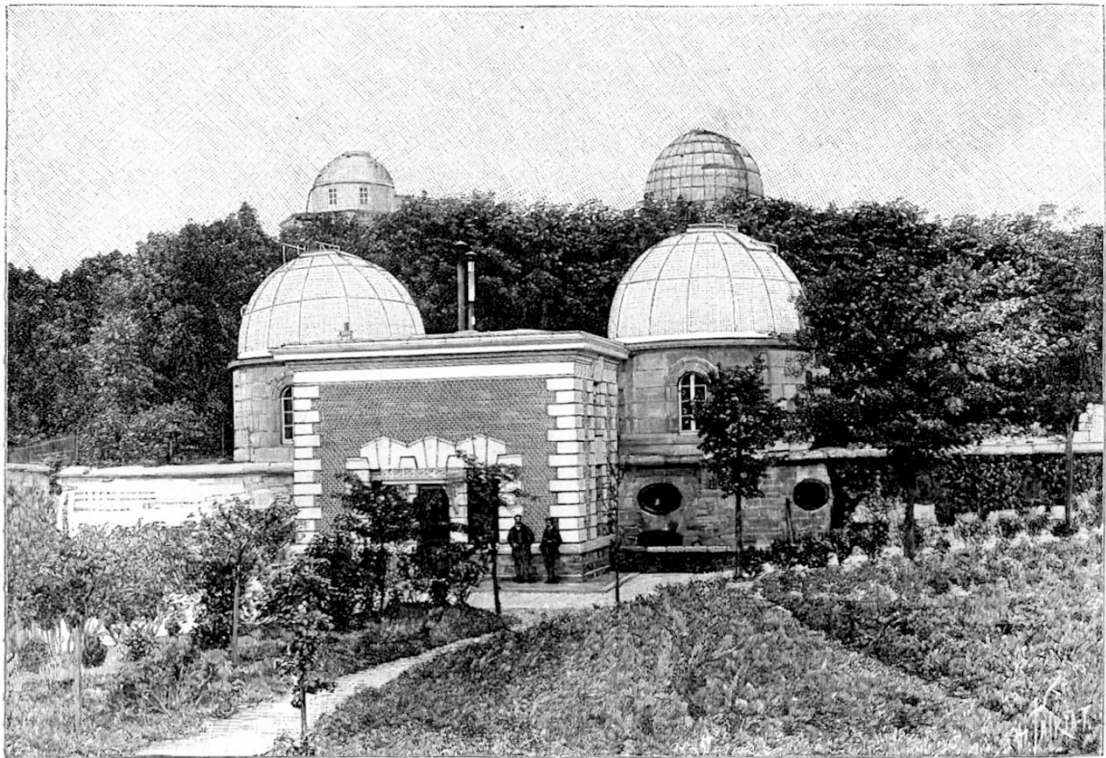


FIG. 1.—The part of the Paris Observatory devoted to the Photographic Star Chart.

animals—remain as heretofore the charge of the Linacre professorship. In short, the treatment of man's structure as part of the general science of morphology remains necessarily the business of the professor of Comparative Anatomy. The exposition of the geography of the human body, in which the surgeon, and to some extent the physician, must be as expert and familiar as a townsman in the pathways of the city in which he resides and does his business—is the distinctive function of the teacher of "human anatomy" in a medical school. It is for this special purpose that we have just added to the excellent laboratories and museum already arranged and used for the study of anatomy in its widest sense, a new dissecting room and adjuncts adapted to the reception and proper treatment of human bodies.

It is to be hoped that the effort now made by the University to establish technical training in anthropotomy as an independent offshoot of the Linacre professorship may be successful. The older laboratories and museum-

illustrations and the following information referring to them.

A special bureau for the measurement of the stellar photographs designed for the catalogue was organised at the Paris observatory in 1892.

To accommodate the new service the building shown in Fig. 1 was erected. On the first floor of the new building a photographic laboratory has been established. The ground floor has been set apart for the service of the measurement of clichés organised by MM. Henry. This service is under the direction of Mdlle. Klumpke, who is assisted by four other ladies.

Two measuring machines were provided last year of the new kind devised by Gautier, and supplied to the French and some foreign co-operating observatories.

The instrument is illustrated by Fig. 2. It consists at the lower part of a fixed horizontal piece having two rails on which a carriage may be caused to slide by means of a screw. Under the face of the carriage

inclined to the horizontal at an angle of 45° is another screw geared to a frame on which moves a circle carrying the fixed holder which receives the plate to be measured.

Each plate after it has been put in the holder can be subjected to three movements: a movement of rotation, which serves the purposes of orientation, and two rectilinear movements, one of which takes place on the horizontal and the other on the inclined plane. Each of the rectilinear movements can be roughly read off by means of the millimetre scales attached to the planes. Fractions of a scale division are determined by means of the micrometer screws. The head of each screw is divided into one hundred parts, and this is further divided into ten by estimation. Since, then, one turn of the screw corresponds to one minute of arc, it is possible to read to $0.6''$ by means of the micrometer divisions.

It is hoped that in five or six years all the plates required from each observatory will have been obtained,

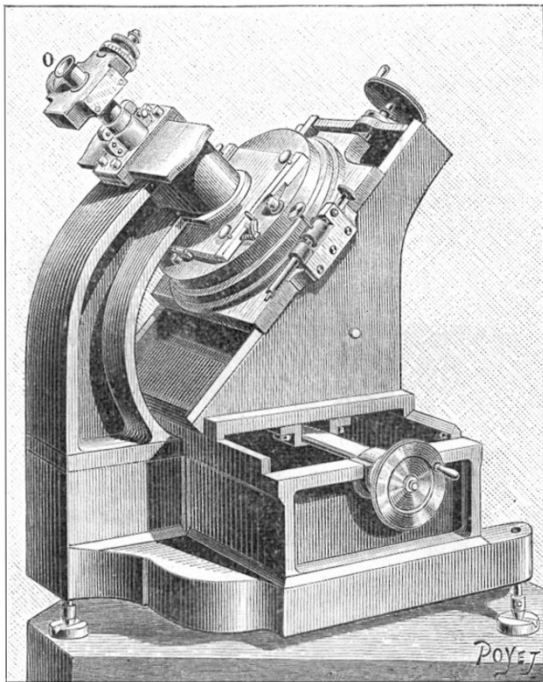


FIG. 2.—Instrument for Measuring Star Photographs. O, Observing Microscope.

but the measures can hardly be completed in less than ten years, and the computations to which they give rise will occupy about the same length of time. This rate of progress, however, cannot be regarded as slow for it must be remembered that the results will occupy forty ponderous volumes of one thousand pages, each page containing the positions of fifty stars.

When the immense labour involved is taken into consideration, one ceases to wonder that some of the co-operating observatories are unable to keep up with the measurements. It is to be hoped that lack of funds may not be allowed to prevent the obtaining of proper assistance in such cases, or to retard the publication of the results as soon as they are ready.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: HODGKINS FUND PRIZES.

IN answer to inquiries, and in further explanation of statements made in the Hodgkins circular (NATURE, vol. xlvii. p. 611), it may be added that *any* branch of
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natural science may offer a subject of discussion for the Hodgkins prizes where this subject is related to the study of the atmosphere in connection with the welfare of man.

Thus, the anthropologist may consider the history of man as affected by climate through the atmosphere; the geologist may study in this special connection the crust of the earth, whose constituents and whose form are largely modified by atmospheric influences; the botanist, the atmospheric relations of the life of the plant; the electrician, atmospheric electricity; the mathematician and physicist, problems of aerodynamics in their utilitarian application; and so on through the circle of the natural sciences, both biological and physical, of which there is perhaps not one which is necessarily excluded.

In illustration of the donor's wishes, which the Institution desires scrupulously to observe, it may be added that Mr. Hodgkins illustrated the catholicity of his plan by citing the work of the late Paul Bert in atmospheric electricity as a subject for research, which, in his own view, might be properly submitted for consideration in this relationship.

While the wide range of the subjects, which the donor's purpose makes admissible, cannot be too clearly stated, it is equally important to emphasise the fact that the prizes in the different classes can be awarded only in recognition of distinguished merit.

S. P. LANGLEY.

NOTES.

PROF. VIRCHOW was elected honorary president of the Berlin Medical Society on Monday.

THE death is announced of Prof. Léon Lefort, vice-president of the Paris Academy of Medicine.

PROF. SCHAUTA, of Vienna, has received the Cross of a Knight of the Order of the North Star from the King of Sweden.

A DISPATCH from Valparaiso announces that a volcanic eruption has occurred near Calbuco, causing great damage to that town.

WE are glad to learn that Prof. von Helmholtz is recovering from the injuries he sustained from falling down a companion ladder on board the *Saale*, while returning from his recent visit to America.

THE Franklin Institute has received the sum of one thousand dollars from Mr. A. A. Boyden, to be rewarded as a premium to any resident of North America who shall determine by experiment whether all rays of light, and other physical rays, are or are not transmitted with the same velocity.

MISS ORMEROD has received a report from her correspondent on crop insect pests in Norway to the effect that the Hessian fly is now for the first time recorded as occurring in Norway and doing damage to barley. Specimens of the infested straw, showing the presence of the flat brown chrysalis of the *Cecidomyia destructor*, were sent with the report.

DR. J. W. GREGORY has returned from East Africa after a very successful investigation of the geology and natural history of Mount Kenia and the neighbouring region. His observations, and the large number of geological, zoological, and botanical specimens collected during the expedition, add considerably to our knowledge of the character and capabilities of British East Africa.

WITH reference to the reported outbreak of cholera at Greenwich, Dr. Thorne Thorne reports that, whilst in certain important respects the materials that have been investigated suggested that