

## THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, MAY 1900.

WE have received the following circular from the U.S. Naval Observatory, Georgetown Heights, Washington, D.C., dated May 17.

In anticipation of the total eclipse of the sun May 28, 1900, the United States Navy Department has arranged with the Secretary of the Treasury to have admitted free of duty the instruments of foreign astronomers who may come to this country to observe the eclipse.

To this end astronomers abroad who contemplate an expedition to the United States are invited to notify the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory of the probable date of their arrival, with the name of the port at which they propose to disembark. The Navy Department will forward to the consuls of the different countries to which these observers belong, stationed at the ports in the United States at which the gentlemen shall arrive, a letter stating their purpose in travelling, which letter will be countersigned by the consul and presented to the collector at the port as a proof of their identity. Upon this the collector will extend all proper facilities for the speedy delivery of the instruments in question, free of duty and charges.

The Superintendent of the Observatory will be glad to hear from each of the proposed expeditions, in order that he may render such assistance as lies in his power. The path of totality extends through a thickly settled portion of the country, including some principal cities. Facilities for transportation are excellent, but it is recommended that instruments be securely packed and marked "delicate instruments—handle with care." The climate at that season is warm. The chances for clear weather are good.

Full information regarding routes of travel to proposed points, and other particulars, can best be obtained through consuls. Through the regular diplomatic channels notice should be conveyed to the local authorities of the city or town selected as a post of observation.

This Observatory will issue a pamphlet of instructions, containing large scale maps showing path of totality.

C. H. DAVIS,  
Captain, U.S.N., Superintendent.

## NOTES.

THREE Fellows of the Royal Society have had honours conferred upon them on the occasion of her Majesty's eightieth birthday. Prof. J. S. Burdon Sanderson, Regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford, has had the dignity of a baronetcy conferred upon him; and physiology is also honoured in the person of Prof. Michael Foster, joint-secretary of the Royal Society, and president-elect of the British Association, who has been appointed to be K.C.B. The promotions from C.B. to K.C.B. include Mr. W. H. Preece, who recently retired from his position as engineer-in-chief of the General Post Office.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Society for the election of Fellows, the fifteen candidates nominated by the Council were elected into the Society. The names and qualifications of these candidates were given in NATURE of May 11 (p. 31).

THE five vacancies in the list of Foreign Members of the Royal Society have been filled by the election of the following: Prof. Ludwig Boltzmann, of the University of Vienna; Prof. Anton Dohrn, late Director of the Zoological Station, Naples; Prof. Emil Fischer, of the University of Berlin; Dr. Neumayer, of Hamburg; and Dr. Treub, Director of the Botanical Gardens, Buitenzorg.

THE Académie Royale des sciences de Turin announces that the Vallauri prize of 30,000 lire (£1200) will be awarded for the most important and celebrated work in the realm of physical science—using this term in a wide sense—published between January 1 of this year and December 31, 1902. The prize will be awarded without consideration of nationality, and no members of the Academy can participate in the competition.

NO. 1545, VOL. 60]

No account will be taken of works in manuscript. The president of the Academy is Prof. Guiseppe Carle, the secretary of the section of physical sciences is Prof. A. Naccari.

THE anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday, and the medals awarded by the Council of the Society, as announced in our issue of May 11, were presented. The meeting was also made the occasion for the American Ambassador to present Sir John Murray with the gold medal awarded to him by the Geographical Society of New York. The medal contains the following inscription:—"Cullum Geographical Medal. Awarded to Sir John Murray, K.C.B., naturalist, deep sea explorer, oceanographer, editor of *Challenger Reports*, 1899."

IT is reported that the *Bakan* transport has left the Neva on her voyage to Spitsbergen. She has a crew of ninety men and eight officers, including Captain Ergomysheff, who is in command.

EFFORTS are being made in New York to form an American Physical Society similar to the Physical Society of London and the Deutsche physikalische Gesellschaft.

IT is announced in *Science* that Prof. F. L. O. Wadsworth has been appointed by the managers of the Western Pennsylvania University to succeed Prof. J. E. Keeler as director of the Allegheny Observatory. Dr. J. L. Wortman, of the American Museum of Natural History, has resigned his position in the museum in order to take charge of the new collections of vertebrate fossils in the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburg.

THE Rome correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* states that since the beginning of May, Prof. Koch and his assistants have installed themselves at the Municipal Hospital of Grosseto, where they are continuing their researches on malaria. Grosseto is a town situated in the line between Genoa and Rome, and is surrounded by an extensive plain, which in olden times was the Lacus Prelius of Cicero. This lake gradually became a morass and caused malaria. By skilful drainage and other means, the Italian Government has converted nearly the whole of this morass into valuable pasturage, and has thus lessened greatly the malaria. It is said that Prof. Koch intends to go to South Africa to continue his studies there when he leaves Grosseto.

A REUTER telegram from Stockholm, dated June 6, says that the Anthropological and Geographical Society in Stockholm has received the following telegram from Herr Vathne, a shipowner at Mandal:—"Captain Hueland, of the steamship *Vaagen*, who arrived there on Monday morning, reports that when off Kola Fjord, Iceland, in 65° 34' north lat., 21° 28' west long., on May 14 he found a drifting buoy marked 'No. 7.' Inside the buoy was a capsule, marked 'Andrée's Polar Expedition,' containing a slip of paper, on which was written the following:—"Drifting buoy, No. 7. This buoy was thrown out from Andrée's balloon on July 11, 1897 10.55 p.m., Greenwich mean time, 82° north lat., 25° east long. We are at an altitude of 600 metres; all well. Andrée, Strindberg, Fraenckel.'" Herr Andrée made his ascent from Danes Island on July 11, 1897, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, so that when the buoy was thrown out the explorer had only travelled seven hours and fifty-five minutes.

A CONFERENCE of representatives of Sea Fishery Boards with officials of the Board of Trade took place at Westminster on Tuesday, under the presidency of Mr. Ritchie. In his remarks