M. 67 (colour indices measured by Shapley) appears to be almost entirely made up of *g* stars, and contains neither *b* nor *m* classes, reminding us forcibly of the frequent association of the corresponding spectral types among the isolated stars.

Very significantly, in neither case does colour or magnitude vary with condensation. On the other hand, colour and magnitude are found to be connected, showing a marked relationship in the case of N.G.C. 1647, less pronounced in M. 67.

THE COLUMBUS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE sixty-eighth annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Columbus, Ohio, from December 27, 1915, to January 1, under the presidency of Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory of the University of California. In spite of the fact that the second Pan-American Scientific Congress was held at the same time in Washington, D.C., there was an attendance of something more than eight hundred, and the meeting was unusually successful.

The address of the retiring president, Dr. C. W. Eliot, on the subject, "The Fruits, Prospects, and Lessons of Recent Biological Science," has already been printed in NATURE (January 27, p. 605). Addresses of presidents of sections were given as follows:—(A) H. S. White, "Poncelet Polygons"; (B) A. Zeleny, "The Dependence of Progress in Science upon the Development of Instruments"; (F) F. R. Lillie, "The History of the Fertilisation Problem"; (G), G. P. Clinton, "Botany in Relation to American Agriculture"; (H) C. Wissler, "Psychological and Historical Interpretations of Culture"; (I) E. E. Rittenhouse, "Upbuilding American Vitality: the Need for a Scientific Investigation"; (K) R. M. Pearce, "The Work and Opportunities of a University Department for Research in Medicine"; (L) P. H. Hanus, "City School Superintendents' Reports"; (M) L. H. Bailey, "The Forthcoming Situation in Agricultural Work."

One of the most interesting functions of the meetings was a public lecture complimentary to the citizens of Columbus by Dr. D. W. Johnson, professor of physiography at Columbia University, on "Surface Features of Europe as a Factor in the War." Dr. Johnson indicated the strategic reasons for the movements in the great war which have been dependent upon the character of the country involved, and threw a new light on the subject to those who have been puzzled especially by the operations in the eastern war zone. Other public lectures were delivered by Dr. R. F. Bacon, of the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh, on "The Industrial Fellowships of the Mellon Institute: Five Years' Progress in a System of Industrial Service"; Dr. F. K. Cameron, of the Bureau of Soils, Washington, "The Fertiliser Resources of the United States."

An important symposium on the topic, "The Basis of Individuality in Organisms," was held by Section F and the American Society of Zoologists.

Section K conducted a symposium on the topic, "Foods and Feeding," in the course of which Prof. H. B. Armsby spoke of the "Energy Content of the Diet"; Prof. Ruth Wheeler on the "Effect of the Proteid Constituents of the Diet on Growth"; Prof. E. B. Forbes, "The Mineral Nutrients in Practical Human Dietetics"; Prof. Carl Voegtlin, "Vitamines"; Dr. C. F. Langworthy, "Food Selection for Rational and Economical Living."

The new section of Agriculture, Section M, conducted a symposium on the topic, "The Relation of Science to Meat Production," in which President W. O. Thompson (Ohio State University), President H. J. Waters (Kansas State Agricultural College), Prof. L. D. Hall (Office of Markets, U.S. Department of Agriculture), Prof. H. W. Mumford (University of Illinois), and Dr. A. R. Ward (Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture) took part.

The following affiliated societies met with the American Association for the Advancement of Science:—American Association of Economic Entomologists, American Mathematical Society, American Microscopical Society; American Nature-Study Society, American Physical Society, American Phytopathological Society, American Society of Naturalists, Association of Official Seed Analysts of North America, Botanical Society of America; Entomological Society of America, Society for Horticultural Science, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Students and Collectors of Ohio Archæology; Wilson Ornithological Club.

New York was chosen as the meeting place for Convocation Week of 1916–17.

Dr. C. R. Van Hise, president of the University of Wisconsin, a distinguished geologist, was elected president of the association for the next year. The vice-presidents—that is, presidents of sections—elected were as follows:—Mathematics, L. P. Eisenhart, Princeton University; Physics, H. A. Bumstead, Yale University; Engineering, E. L. Corthell, Brown University, Providence, R.I.; Geology and Geography, R. D. Salisbury, University of Chicago; Zoology, G. H. Parker, Harvard University; Botany, T. J. Burrill, University of Illinois; Anthropolgy and Psychology, F. W. Hodge, chief of the Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D.C.; Social and Economic Science, Louis I. Dublin, New York; Education, L. P. Ayres, of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York; Agriculture, W. H. Jordan, director of the New York State Experiment Station, Geneva, N.Y.

The general committee reaffirmed the recently adopted policy of the association in regard to the planning of future meetings, establishing a five years' schedule, largely for the benefit of the affiliated societies in making their plans for the future.

Members of the association who attended the last Columbus meeting in 1899 were greatly impressed by the growth of the Ohio State University during the intervening years, a growth, however, which is characteristic of a number of the great State universities in the United States. At the time of the 1899 meeting there were only one thousand students at this University, and at the time of the present meeting there are more than five thousand. Very many new buildings have been erected in the interim, and the equipment of all is modern and most excellent.

PARIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: PROPOSED PRIZES AND GRANTS.

PRIZES PROPOSED FOR 1917.

Mathematics.—The Francœur prize (1000 francs) will be awarded to the author of discoveries or works useful to the progress of pure or applied mathematics; the Bordin prize (3000 francs), for an improvement in some important point of the arithmetical theory of non-quadratic forms; the Poncelet prize (2000 francs), to the French or foreign author of the most important work in applied mathematics published in the course of the preceding ten years; the Vaillant prize (4000 francs), the question set for 1917 is to determine and study all surfaces which can in two different ways be formed by the displacement of an invariable curve.

Mechanics.—The Montyon prize (700 francs), for inventing or improving instruments useful to the pro-