

MODERN VIEWS OF THE SUN

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A YEAR AGO I had the honor of giving you as my Presidential Address a résumé of the recent advances in our knowledge of the constitution of the sidereal universe. This year I have thought it desirable to consider one member only of the innumerable millions in that universe, and a comparatively insignificant member when compared in relative size and brightness with other stars; and yet a member which is to us all important, without whose presence and beneficent radiation all life on our globe would cease.

This, to us all important star, the sun, has in all times and all ages excited the keenest interest and wonder in mankind. It was in several races invoked as one of the deities who rule over mankind, and indeed, though perhaps not realized to the full by its followers, sun worship had a better basis for its existence, so far as man's material welfare is concerned, than any of the pagan religions.

In modern times we are only at the beginning in obtaining some idea of the real nature, constitution and influence of the