

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Those interested in such matters should note the fact that the "harvest moon" in September next will be especially worthy of observation, because it will belong to the class best typical of this phenomenon. Such "moons" occur but once in the lunar period of nineteen years, the conditions being most favorable. In September the moon will be full at 11.23 p.m., on the 14th.

Preparations are already being made for the due observation by European parties of the total eclipse of the sun, to be visible on the 8th of August, 1896, at Vadso, on the Veranger Fjord, Finmark. An opportunity for such an observation is not so frequent in Europe that this one can be passed by because it happens to occur in a part of the continent somewhat inaccessible and, therefore, not often visited even by the most enthusiastic tourists and sportsmen. With a view to testing the conditions which may reasonably be expected to prevail, parties are being organized this summer to make the journey and report. Some ladies, scientifically inclined, will join these parties which will also make themselves acquainted with the facilities for fishing and hunting said to be as good as any anywhere. It is intended that the excursionists who go out in August, 1896, shall arrive on the chosen ground by the 2nd of the month at the latest, so that they may see the last "midnight sun" of the year, visible on that day.

Sir Henry Thompson, who has made a fortune in the practice of medicine, has presented the sum of \$25,000 to the Greenwich Observatory, for the purchase of a twenty-six inch telescope for photographic work. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Univer-

sity of Cambridge has, through a syndicate of its astronomers, including Sir Robert Ball, addressed an appeal to friends of the University and other scientific men for the sum of \$11,000 to complete the celestial photographic equipment of the University Observatory, which has just finished the work allotted to it of photographing the stars. This is an appeal which should find a response. The Astronomical Society of Toronto has been asked to make this appeal known in Canada, and has done so. Mr. Charles Carpmael, F.R.A.S., president of the Society, will be glad to communicate with anyone who may be desirous of contributing to this worthy cause.

The Royal Society of England is asking the co-operation of all scientific persons in establishing, at some central place, a bureau which shall be charged with the compilation of an annual general catalogue containing the titles of all scientific publications, whether appearing in periodicals or independently, the titles to be arranged not only according to authors' names, but also according to subject-matter, for the purpose of reference. The value of such a catalogue would be very great, and it is to be hoped that the Society will meet the response it deserves. Communications, with suggestions, etc., may be addressed either to the Secretaries of the Royal Society, London, or to the Secretary of The Astronomical Society of Toronto, which has been invited to report on the subject, and will be glad to forward any material sent in to it. A movement of this kind should receive the prompt attention of scientists, who should do all they can to encourage it. The Royal Society will take it up only on a reasonable assurance that it will be supported and made successful.

G. E. L.

