

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE NEW STAR.—A new star has appeared in the Constellation Andromeda. Unlike the new star of 1855 in the Northern Crown this one has appeared near the nucleus of the well known nebula of Andromeda, suggesting the possible sudden condensation of the nebulous mass into a central new-born sun. It is probably, however, not a condensation; and it appears also not to be in the exact nucleus, and to change both its brightness and position, from the observations which have so far been reported. The phenomenon is justly considered by the astronomical world as one of great significance.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The British Association for the advancement of Science met in Aberdeen from the 3rd to the 16th Sept.—the 55th annual meeting. The Right Hon. Sir. Lyon Playfair presided. As usual a great number of papers were read, but nothing of more than ordinary interest was mooted. The addresses of the President and Presidents of Sections were generally very severe on the British Government for its tardy action in stimulating Scientific education. The conduct of some of the continental powers, with its advantages, was pointed out in contrast.

SCIENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS.—The Council of Public Instruction is commencing to stimulate the study of Science. The Academic Course of Study outlines some elementary work very minutely. The Government has also made a great step in advance in opening a department of Agriculture in connection with the Normal School. It is valuable, of course, only as a step in the right direction. The results of the novel experiment will be interesting and instructive to observe.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Principal MacKay has been exploring a portion of this island during the summer vacation. The Avalon peninsula is a land of rocks and lakes. Diatomaceous deposits and fresh-water sponges are abundant. The new sponges discovered in Nova Scotia, *Spongilla MacKayi* and *Heteromeyenia Pictovensis*, are quite abundant there.