

*Annuaire pour l'An 1899, publié par le Bureau des Longitudes.*  
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THIS little annual, with its mass of scientific information for a franc and a half and a slip containing a ready written notice for the reviewer, appears as usual in good time. One can hardly glance through its pages, filled as they are with numerical details of all kinds, without being impressed with the industry of scientific workers of this century. It would be an interesting employment for some statistician to make an estimate of the number of hours of work which have been devoted to obtaining the numerical results here given.

We note one or two changes from last year. The astronomical distances of the sun and moon from the earth have been altered so as to correspond with the solar parallax  $8''.80$ ; this value is probably very close to the true one. The table of small planets has been reduced in size by the omission of certain details. These and other changes necessary to bring the volume up to date will be found noted in the preface.

The four notices which accompany the volume are of more interest to the student of terrestrial and celestial phenomena than to the mathematician. The first, "Sur les ballons-sondés" by M. Bouquet de la Grye, tells mainly of the attempts which have lately been made by means of balloons and kites to obtain more information of the upper regions of the atmosphere. The second, "La géodésie moderne en France" by M. Bassot, contains an account of the rise, the decline, and the present activity of the French geodetic service. The third, "Note sur le sidérostât à lunette de  $60^m$  de foyer et  $1^m.25$  d'ouverture, en construction chez M. P. Gautier," is an illustrated account of the large refracting telescope which is at present under construction and which will form one of the chief attractions at the Paris Exhibition of 1900. In the last, "Sur les travaux exécutés à l'observatoire du mont Blanc en 1898," M. J. Janssen reminds us that the snow-bound observatory is being made use of, notwithstanding the many difficulties encountered by the hardy observers who venture to stay there for a short time each summer.

ERNEST W. BROWN.

*L' Ora Esatta Dappertutto, etc.* By MICHELE RAJNA. Ulrico Hoepli, Milan.

THIS is a little volume of 130 pages devoted to simple explanations of the measurement of time. It contains maps and tables by means of which the true local time of