

PREFACE.

The Journal of the Science College of the Imperial University of Japan, the first part of which now makes its appearance, may be regarded under some aspects as a continuation of the Scientific Memoirs which had been from time to time published by the Tōkyō University. For this reason the Journal, in shape and size, is made uniform with these.

Outside the mere fact, however, of both being scientific publications of the highest existing Science School in Japan, there is little or no similarity. Each Scientific Memoir was, in itself, a distinct monograph on a particular scientific subject. The Journal, on the other hand, in each of its Volumes or Parts, is quite unrestricted as to the length and character of the papers or notes therein published. Many an interesting fact, in itself too small to make a formal memoir, may thus be saved from the oblivion that would almost certainly be its fate, were no ready means of publication at hand.

As the name itself all but implies, this Journal is intended to be the channel through which the world at large may receive Japan's own contributions to the progress of Science. A glance at the

contents of the present Part will speak more for the nature and scope of the project than pages of preface.

One unique feature, which will be apparent at once, has regard to the language or languages in which the various papers are to be presented. Each contribution must be written in one of the three languages, English, French, or German—the choice being left entirely to the author. The necessity for this tri-lingual character springs, of course, from the very peculiar but well-known conditions under which Science has been cultivated in Japan and by the Japanese.

It is intended to publish the Journal in annual volumes,—the number and size of the separate Parts of each volume being dependent upon the nature and extent of the contributions.

