

P R E F A C E.

RECENT improvements in the Microscope having rendered that instrument increasingly available for scientific research, and having created a large class of observers who devote themselves to whatever department of science may be investigated by its aid, it has been thought that the time is come when a Journal devoted entirely to objects connected with the use of the Microscope would contribute to the advancement of science, and secure the co-operation of all interested in its various applications.

The object of this Journal will be the diffusion of information relating to all improvements in the construction of the Microscope, and to record the most recent and important researches made by its aid in different departments of science, whether in this country or on the continent. A department of the Journal will be given to reviews of works, or those parts of works which are devoted to subjects of inquiry in which the Microscope is employed. It is the wish of the Editors to conduct this department in a friendly spirit, regarding all who labour honestly in the field of science as co-workers for the common good. In order to gather up fragments of information, which singly might appear to be useless but together are of great importance to science, the Editors have opened a department for short notes, memoranda, and correspondence, to which they would especially invite the attention of their scientific friends, as they believe there are few possessors of a Microscope who have not met with some stray fact or facts which, published in this way, may not lead to important results. They hope also to relieve the graver and more strictly scientific matter of the Journal by lighter contributions, such as will be found useful to the beginner, not uninteresting to the advanced observer, and of interest perhaps to the general reader.

In a Journal of this nature illustrations are indispensable, as it is difficult to convey an accurate idea of objects observed by description alone; but as it is impossible to give a fixed amount, the Publishers have determined to afford, *on an average*, with

each number, four lithographic plates, and such woodcuts as may be necessary; and they congratulate themselves in having secured for this department the services of Mr. Tuffen West, as their artist, to whose plates in the present number they may confidently appeal, as examples of the manner in which they wish to illustrate the Journal in future.

In announcing the objects they have in view, the Editors would especially call attention to the connexion of this Journal with the Microscopical Society of London, as it is mainly through the readiness expressed by the Council of that Society to co-operate with the Proprietors and Editors, in order to diffuse more widely, and to publish more regularly, their Transactions, that the Journal owes its existence in its present form.

The papers published under the head of 'Transactions of the Microscopical Society of London' are selected by the Council of that Society; for its other contents and general conduct the Editors are alone responsible.

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to apologise for the title of the Journal, as the term "Microscopical," however objectionable in its origin, has acquired a conventional meaning by its application to Societies having the cultivation of the use of the Microscope in view, and so fully expresses the objects of the Journal, that it immediately occurred as the best understood word to employ. It will undoubtedly be a Journal of Microscopy and Histology; but the first is a term but recently introduced into our language, and the last would give but a contracted view of the objects to which the Journal will be devoted.

As the success of their undertaking must mainly depend on the cordial assistance and co-operation of those who are engaged in prosecuting microscopical investigations, the Editors would urge upon them the importance of their assistance in making known the nature and objects of 'The Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science,' and in becoming contributors to its pages.
