

conspicuous. It is satisfactory that there is a prospect that a record of the Sun's activity will be continued by the Wilna Photoheliograph; and that, after the lapse of a year or two, a new Photoheliograph, with all those improvements and perfections which advanced knowledge and past shortcomings have suggested, will be erected in this country by Mr. De La Rue. In the meantime the Royal Society have sanctioned the replacement of the secondary magnifier (an ordinary Huyghenian eye-piece) of the Kew instrument by a positive eye-piece achromatised for the chemical rays, as in the Wilna instrument.

Statement of the work done at the Kew Observatory with the Heliograph.

Year.	Number of Days of Observations.	Number of Pictures Obtained.	Remarks.
1862	163	227	Pictures taken at Cranford.
1863	125*	184	Instrument mounted at Kew. Pictures commenced in May.
1864	164	249	
1865	159	277	
1866	157	262	
1867	131	187	No observations made between Aug. 9 and Sept. 9; building under alteration.
1868	174	285	
1869	195	324	
1870	220	381	
1871	226	381	
1872	10	21	January only.
Total	1724†	2778	

Mr. Huggins' Observatory.

During the past year the large Grubb Equatoreal, and the new spectroscopes constructed for use with it, have been got into adjustment, and some work has been done, though the long continuance of bad weather during the autumn left but few favourable nights for observation.

Measures have been taken of the remarkable bands of absorption in the spectra of *Uranus* and *Neptune*. The spectra of Comet I. 1871 and Encke's Comet were found to be similar to those of former comets examined at Tulse Hill. An account of these observations and drawings of the appearance of Encke's Comet will be found in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

* Spots were unusually scarce this year.

† The number of good observation days seem to be greatest at the times of maximum spots.