NOTABLE UTAH WOMEN.

MRS. ELMINA SHEPARD TAYLOR.

MRS. ELMINA SHEPARD TAYLOR, President of the Young Ladies' National Mutual Improvement Association, is a Western woman, having made Utah her home for some forty years. She was born in Middlefield, Otsego Co., N. Y., and comes of a good old Puritan and sturdy Dutch stock.

In 1859 Mrs. Taylor, with her husband, began the journey across the plains to Utah, using the mode of transportation in vogue in those days—the ox-team—reaching their destination just five months from the time of starting.

Having grown up with the common wealth, and participated in the hardships incident to the settlement of a new country, Mrs. Taylor has developed great freedom of thought and force of action. The mother of seven children and a great lover of home, she has still found time to indulge her zealous desire to assist in the advancement of her fellow-creatures, and has been foremost in all home charitable and philanthropic movements, especially in those pertaining to the higher development of her sex.

For numerous years she has been president of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association—an organization which during that time has grown from a small nucleus (in it now numbers more four hundred separate associations, comprising a membership of over nineteen thousand. Branch associations of this great organization are found not only in every city and settlement of Utah, but also in Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Canada, Mexico, in the islands of the sea and in some of the countries of Europe, and Mrs. Taylor is in constant communication by letter with these branches, and in connection with her side visits them from time to time, giving instruction in the work of mutual improvement, and inspiring the young girls to lofty standards of thought and action.

In 1891 the Y. L. M. I. A. became associated with the National Council of Women of the United States, and since that time has been represented in the business and oratorical sections of that body held in Chicago, Omaha and Washington, and in the International Congress of Women recently held in London.

Although an elderly woman, Mrs. Taylor possesses that youthfulness of spirit which enables her to enter into the feelings of the young, and makes her one with the host of young girls over whom she presides.

BATHSHEBA W. SMITH.

BATHSHEBA W. SMITH, the daughter of Mark and Susannah Ogden Bailey, was born near Scottsville, Harrison county, Virginia, May 3, 1825.

Her father was a descendant of the old Pennsylvania Dutch, and her mother of one of the old families of Maryland. Her mother's family were slaveholders, but from conscientious motives granted their slaves freedom.

Bathsheba, at the age of fifteen years, heard and accepted the doctrines of "Mormonism," and in the next year, 1840, went with her parents to Missouri, where the Saints were then gathered. They found the tide of religious persecution at its highest, and with others were obliged to leave—the place selected for their home being Quincy, Ill. From here the family moved to Nauvoo, where in 1841 the subject of this sketch was married to George A. Smith, who afterward became one of the leaders of the Church.

In 1842 the first Relief Society was established in Nauvoo with Emma Smith, the wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith, as president, and at this initiatory meeting Bathsheba became a member of the society. In 1846 occurred the exodus from Nauvoo, and in February, Mrs. Smith with her husband and children, crossed the Mississippi and started on the uncertain and difficult journey across the plains. Writing in her journal of the journey Mrs. Smith says: "It would be vain to attempt to describe how we traveled through snow, wind, and rain; how roads had to be made, bridges built, and rafts constructed. How our animals had to drag on, with scanty food, and how we suffered in poverty, sickness and death!"

On A. Smith's company arrived in Salt Lake Valley in 1848—and Mrs. Smith shared in the privations and hardships of those early times, living in tents and huts, and enduring all the rigors of settlement in the desert home. A comfortable house was afterward built, the present Church Historian's office being her early home.

Her husband, in his work of the ministry, was compelled to be almost much of the time absent and Mrs. Smith was obliged to supply herself, children and home with such things as she could make with her hands. She was in the habit of spinning, colored and wove it into flannel, linsey and blankets. Her husband had raised a quantity of flax and she spun and wove it into table-cloths, towels and bed-ticks. She spun and wove wool carpets, sheets, blankets, carded and wove linsey cotton; made cloth for dresses, bags, and spread; made quilts, knitting, net spun and wove bed-ticking and table-cloths. She knit socks, hosiery, mittens, and made nothing embroidery—sewing by hand.

Sister Smith became a member of Deseret Hospital Relief Society at the date of its organization in 1842, and afterward became its president. She is now vice president of the National Women's Relief Society of Utah, and counselor of the Church Relief Society throughout the world. At the opening of the Salt Lake Temple, she, with Zina D. Young, was appointed to preside over the women's departments—a work which she still continues with unabated interest and activity. She officiated at the dedicating of Nauvoo, Logan and Salt Lake Temples, and has filled many high offices with honor.

DR. ROMANIA B. PRATT.

DR. ROMANIA B. PRATT was born in 1838, at Washington, Wayne county, Indiana. At the age of seven, her parents having accepted the principles of Mormonism, she accompanied them to the gathering place of the Church at Nauvoo. When the people were driven from that place, she went with her parents as far as Winter Quarters, but the rigors of the season were so severe as to threaten her mother's life, and they were obliged to return to a place where she might endure less hardship. The family, therefore, went to Newmarket, Mo., and afterwards to Ohio, where they remained until June, 1851, when they traveled in an independent company of fifty across the great plains. The journey was completed on September 3rd, of the same year, the company camping on the Public Square, which is now occupied by the University of Utah. In 1855, Romania married Parley P. Pratt, the eldest son of Apostle Parley P. Pratt. Later, circumstances induced her to take up the study of medicine, and for this purpose she went to New York, where she spent a year in arduous application to her work. The ensuing two years she spent at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, from which she graduated as M. D., in the class of 1871. The vacation between her college years, she had spent in the Boston Hospital for Women and Children where she made a reputation which secured her name being mentioned as candidate for a course in the great medical institutions of Europe. But this plan required a long absence from home, and she decided to return to her family and enter upon her profession in Utah. Dr. Pratt was the first woman from Utah to graduate in medicine and surgery. Two years later she went to New York and took courses of study at the Eye and Ear Infirmary under Dr. Henry Noyes and other noted physicians, and became very proficient in those branches. In June, 1887, Dr. Pratt was installed as resident physician of the Deseret Hospital—an institution established at her suggestion, continuing in her position until the close of the institution in 1892. She then retired to private practice, in which she continues till the present time. She was assistant secretary of the central board of the Relief Society for ten years, and is at present an active member in the organization. Dr. Pratt has also figured prominently in women's club work, being a charter member of the Reapers club, and at one time holding the office of president of the Press Club, in which she also retains an active membership.

A SHOWER OF METEORS TO FALL ON NOVEMBER 14-15.

A Marvelous Display Described by Prof. Rees of Columbia—It Comes Once in Every 33¼ Years—Wanderers in Space Travel in Groups.

If the predictions of astronomers prove to be correct the heavens on the evenings of the 14th and 15th of November will present an inspiring and dazzling display of meteors. Astronomers are looking forward to the event with great interest, and many preparations are being made to the observatories of the world with a view to securing more complete knowledge of this periodical phenomena. In spite of careful telescopic observations and elaborate photographic observations to be made in various localities, it is hoped that we may learn more now things about these strange meteoric visitors from the unknown realms of space into the atmosphere of the planet on which we live. So rich display as is expected in November has been seen since 1866. In view of this coming artistic phenomenon the following article will prove particularly interesting. It was prepared especially for this paper by J. K. Rees, professor of astronomy in Columbia university, New York.

A SHOWER OF SHOOTING STARS.

All persons who watch the heavens and gaze in admiring wonder on the glittering stars are frequently astonished through stars darting from their fixed orbits, leaving trails of light behind, and then, usually, in a moment or two disappearing completely. These stars seem to have been shot out from a previous fixed position by some tremendous force, which makes the mind think of the action of a great cannon, and hence the name of "shooting stars" is given.

The astronomer knows that these "shooting stars" are not really stars. Real stars are giant and distant suns, shining by their own light. These are such, but bodies which have been cast out and outlive when they strike the air surrounding the earth. The velocity of their motion is, on an average, about twenty-five miles a second, and as when that flash into the earth's atmosphere they ignite and are burned up, a corporation of some thousand designs. The result is that as these bodies are usually very small, their appearance is generally unnoticed and disregarded. Sometimes quite large bodies are observed, and the phenomena, frequently startling, and then the sudden death of the body. Such bodies when found are called meteorites, meteoric stones, aerolites (air-stones) or aerolites (heavenly-stones).

WHAT METEORITES ARE MADE OF.

Some consist of nearly pure iron with nickel, others are stony, and still others are mixed stony with crystal and globules of iron. Comparatively very few meteorites have been seen to fall. Their chemical and mineralogical character is such that, they can be identified as meteoric, it is supposed, without anyone seeing them fall. The number of shooting stars visible to the naked eye is far greater than one would imagine who only glances at the sky now and then. A single observer can see, on the average, about five an hour. But such a group of watchers can observe, ordinarily only those stars which "shoot" within one or the other of their observation. It therefore, the whole earth were covered with observers enough to see all the heavens, it has been calculated by the late Professor Newton of Yale university that the number visible would be between 15,000 and 20,000. When in this number we add those which are not fair to be seen by the naked eye, we reach a total which may run up to 100,000. We are therefore, forced to the conclusion that interplanetary spaces are quite rich in such bodies. Investigations show that these shooting stars are of a fragilous nature. Millions travel together in the same swarm or group. They have parts of them, the orbits before being frequently miles apart.

IN A SHOWER OF SHOOTING STARS.

The interesting inhabitants in some treated to a most awe-inspiring and dazzling display when the earth encounters such a group.

Astronomers expect to see such an encounter next November, about the 14th or 15th. If their calculations be correct, watchers all over the earth may at the time named see a splendid display of the heavens's fireworks. Crowded skies can but not any view and as the moon will be very nearly full on November 15 (full moon comes on November 17) her light will certainly obscure the faint trails of many shooting stars.

The best to observe is between midnight and the earlier twilight. We are then on the advancing front of the earth and will see these meteors as we catch up with or meet. During the hours previous to midnight, we see only those shooting stars which overtake us on the earth. Sitting on the cowcatcher of a locomotive engine is the nearest to an approximation we can make to an idea of what it was to be in the platform of the rear car. The impression is very different.

The story of the November meteors is most interesting and instructive. Astronomers have been able to track out the life history of these meteors from the observations made. In 1799 A. Humboldt saw from the Andes mountains a great star shower, and in 1833 there was another great meteoric display. Many thousands fell in the course of a few hours. Professor Newton of New Haven investigated the matter, looked into the records of our forefathers, and showed that there had been a great number of star showers recording about thirty-three years apart, and coming in the fall of the year. He prophesied that the next return would be near November 13-14, 1866. The shower came as predicted.

A DESCRIPTION OF A SHOWER.

Sir Robert S. Ball of England has described his view as follows:

"The night was fine; the moon was absent. The meteors were distinguished not only by their numerous multitude but by their intrinsic magnitudes. I shall never forget that night. In the memorable evening I was engaged to be some distance from home. I was observing meteors with Lord Rosse's great reflecting telescope at Parsonstown. Because I was of course aware that a shower of meteors had been predicted, but nothing that I had heard warranted me for the splendid spectacle so soon to be unfolded. It was about 10 o'clock at night when an exclamation from an attendant, who was with me, made me look up from the telescope, just in time to see a fine meteor burst into the sky. It was preceded, followed by another, and then again by others in two and threes, which showed with clearness on the sky. At this time the cart of Rosse (then Lord Oxmantown) joined me at the telescope, and, after a brief interval, we resolved to cease our observations of the nebulæ and accord to the top of the wall of the great building, where the earth's entire view of the whole hemisphere of the heavens could be obtained. There for the next two or three hours we witnessed a spectacle which can never fade from our memory. The shooting stars gradually increased in number until sometimes several were seen at once. Sometimes they swept over the heads of the spectators in the right, sometimes to the left, but they all diverged from the east. As the night wore on the accumulation of the meteors from the horizon, and then the remarkable character of the shower was disclosed. All the lines of the meteors appeared from Leo. Occasionally numerous trains would linger on for many minutes after the meteor in the right, and that the great number of the trains in the shower were evanescent. It would be impossible for me to describe the number of meteors were seen, each one of which was bright enough to have startled a person not observing on any ordinary night."

THE SHOWERS 33-1-4 YEARS APART.

This shower was the first seen in Europe in 1799, but in 1833 it was repeated and the observers in the United States were treated to a magnificent spectacle. The researches of Professor Newton of New Haven and of Professor Adams of Cambridge, England, and others, have demonstrated that there is moving about the sun, as a center of attraction, a great group of small meteors. This group takes thirty-three and one-quarter years to make a complete circuit. The orbit plane is inclined to the earth's orbit and so related to it that the meteor group crosses the earth's orbit at that point where the earth comes about November 13-14. The enormous stream has a small breadth in comparison with its length. Professor Newton calculated that if we represent the orbit of the meteors by an ellipse whose length is seven feet, then the meteor stream will be represented by a thread of the finest sewing silk, about a foot and a half or two feet long, crossing along the orbit.

In the heavens the ellipse has an axis over 1,600,000,000 of miles in length. At aphelion the meteor group extends beyond the orbit of the planet Uranus. The real breadth of the stream cannot be less than 100,000 miles, and is probably much more. In fact the earth has five hours to go through, moving at the rate of about eighteen miles a second. In 1867 when the earth returned to the same spot, the meteor stream was still going by, and Alexander, especially, had a splendid view from its 100 the stream had not gone by completely. There are meteors scattered all along the orbit path of the group, but there appears to be one or two group or bunch. We therefore are nearer every year about November 13-14, but the grand shower comes only when we strike into the bunched stream.

THE SCIENCE OF THE SHOWERS.

The calculations of the great French astronomer, Le Verrier, appear to indicate that, in 126 A. D., the Leonids (as the swarm is called, because the meteors seem to radiate from Leo) were moving in an orbitly manner around a great orbit which would take them past the earth's orbit not almost to Jupiter, in their nearest approach to the sun, and then they would recede, never to be seen again in the solar system. But in that year (126 A. D.) the planet Venus was near the swarm as they passed the orbit, and so, by the power of his patronizing attraction pulled them out of their course, drew them, perhaps, a smaller orbit, the second path. Venus replaced by the sun's attraction the interfering group of meteors. The group in subject now, in its motion around the sun, is disturbing effects of pulls from the other planets, Jupiter, Saturn and the earth. These pulls make the accurate calculations difficult, and produce uncertainty as to the time of the showers. A few weeks after the 33d shower of Leonids, Astronomer Schiaparelli of Milan published a paper on the August meteors or Perseids, because their radiant spot is in Perseus. He showed the wonderful fact that a bright comet was moving in the same path as the August meteors. A little later Professor Oppolzer of Germany published the orbit of Temple's comet of 1866. Then it was seen that a remarkable resemblance existed between the orbits of the November meteors and Temple's 1866 comet—the orbits were practically identical. Several years later the meteoric shower radiated from Andromeda was shown to be following in the path of Biela's comet. Later yet the April meteors were found to be associated with a comet. Four such remarkable cases seem to prove a physical connection between comets and meteors. Many astronomers hold that these meteor swarms are simply the relics of comets going to pieces while the action of the sun, during their nearest approach to perihelion. The earth's atmosphere, but remains, with, in building up the planet, like a sieve, it gets nothing in from homeschool. If the air were less dense and thinner many more meteors might get through to the earth. No meteors have come to us from any of the great showers.

PREPARATIONS BY ASTRONOMIES.

Preparations are being made in many of the observatories of the world to observe the expected grand display. Some astronomers will try to photograph the group before we reach the crossroads. The sunlight striking the group may diminish the black sufficiently to be seen by the photographic rays before the earth's atmosphere converts the group into patches of veritable sky-rocks.

Observers will watch the heavens and will trace on prepared maps of the stars the track of any independent meteor. Many of these tracks being obtained, the radiant point can be determined. This is essential for a calculation of the orbit.

Dr. Elkins of Yale University has, with the Brasher and of the National Academy of Sciences, placed several cameras on an axis parallel to the earth's axis. He will aim the various cameras at different points of the sky near the constellation of Leo, so the night the shower is expected will be the old of clock work the cameras will be kept pointed to the same places. When the shower comes photographs will be made, giving, it is hoped, developed plates which will show thousands stars crossed by the track of a meteor. A second observing station, several miles away, will also take photographs. It is expected that both observatories will get pictures of the same meteor trail. The length of the trail will be seen, showing the trails to the known fixed stars in Leo, will determine the elevations of the meteors at the time of their appearance. Some of the meteors may be seen to begin a known distance apart. This will give the data for calculating the height of the meteors above the surface of the earth, and from the final accurate determination of the radiant point.

All who wish to see a wonderful sight should be on the watch. It might be well for those desiring to see the display to make a special study of the heavens on the evenings of the shower (it may come a little earlier, or later than November 14-15, and some unknown effect of the planetary pulls may so disturb the motion of the swarm that it may decline to put in an appearance at all this year). If so, the astronomer is quite certain that he will see the display in the last year of the present century, November, 1899.

When we see the grand shower the words of the Psalmist will come to mind:

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

DEWEY'S FAVORITE SONG.

From his earliest childhood Admiral Dewey evinced an interest in matters pertaining to war, and especially to war on the sea. He had two brothers, quite a little older than himself, and one sister, two years younger. Their mother died when the admiral was only five years old.

Dr. J. Y. Dewey, the admiral's father, seems to have been very tender and thoughtful to his care of his motherless family, especial of the two youngest children. He was a fine singer, and it is told of him in the family even now that nothing gave the boy Dewey so much pleasure as to have his father take him on his knee and sing to him certain favorite song called "The Poor Little Child of a Tar."

In a little blue garment all ragged and torn,
With scarce any shoes to his feet,
His head all bareness, a look quite forlorn,
And a cold, stary stare for a seat.

A boy observer set, and as he passed
With a look that might pierce to the "Hard, pity," he cried, "let your body be cast
On a poor little child of a tar."

"No mother have I, and no friends to
Deserted and friendless I roam,
My father has fought for his country and fame,
But, alas, he may never come home."

"By cruelty driven from a cold and
Whole cities in sorrow I see
My home in ashes! but, my mother, poor
Alas, the severity she felt."

"Dawed down by misfortune and
Deserted and friendless is left
The poor little child of a tar."

This statistic he cited, when a friend
Who passed,
Stopped a moment to give him
He strolled forth his hand and a
on his cast,
A look full of pity and grief.

"What, my Willie," he cried, "why
Little boy,
At last I've returned from the
The sorrows shall cease, not
more sailor,
The poor little child of a tar."

THE LARGEST BELL.

The largest bell in the world is in the Buddhist monastery, near Canton, China. It is 18 feet high, and at its circumference, and is of solid bronze. It is one of the eight great bells which were cast by command of the Emperor Yungho about A. D. 1406, and are said to have cost the lives of eight men who were killed during the process of casting it.

SENSIBLE LEGISLATION.

Western Australia has an act in force prohibiting the making of any one who cannot write out a given passage in English.