

in learned periodicals, he had published eight books. The *Handbook of Statistics* was ready for publication at the time of his death. His presidential address on *The importance of general statistical ideas* to the section of economics and statistics of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1901 broke new ground. He was also a founder of the International Statistical Institute in London (1885).

HIS HONOURS

Glasgow University conferred on Giffen an honorary LL.D. in 1884. He was created C.B. in 1891 and K.C.B. in 1895. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society. His services were required on various commissions and committees and his work on the Royal Commission on the Depression of Agriculture in Great Britain in 1893-1897, was greatly appreciated.

In a minute written after the passing of the Bankruptcy Act of 1882, Joseph Chamberlain described Giffen as "to a great extent the real author of the measure, to whose exhaustive memorandum on the subject, I owe the best part of my own knowledge".

The following estimate of his statistical ability may be of interest. "He had an arithmetical sense almost amounting to genius, a feeling for the probable errors of the factors used, and a courageous rejection

of measurements where the inaccuracy was too great. He had an intuitive feeling for the relative importance of numbers."

While on a visit to Scotland, he suddenly died of heart-failure on April 12, 1910. He had no children.

Worth, Richard Nicholas (1837-1896)

R. N. WORTH, an amateur geologist was born on 19th July 1837 in Devonport. He was apprenticed at the Devonport and Plymouth *Telegraph* and became a member of its staff in 1855. Throughout his life he pursued the career of a journalist.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

But Worth devoted all his spare time to investigating the history and geology of the West of England. Patient and exact, dreading hasty theorising, he did not do much little for the archaeology and geology of Devon and Cornwall. In the last thirty years of his life, Worth had 140 of his papers published, his geological papers having appeared in the *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society of London. He was a fellow of the same Society and twice president of the Plymouth Association and once of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art.

Worth died suddenly at Shaugh Priory on July 3, 1896.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

Planets during August, 1937.—Mercury will attain greatest elongation 27°E. on August 18 and will be visible for a few days about this date in the western sky soon after sunset. Venus will continue to be a morning star throughout the month; on August 3, it will be in conjunction with the Moon, the planet being about a degree south at the time. Mars is moving eastwards in the Constellation Scorpio and will be crossing the meridian at about sunset. There will be a close approach with Antares (α Scorpii) on August 26, the planet (Stellar magnitude, 0.1) passing about 2° north of the star; on August 15, Mars will be in close conjunction with the Moon.

Jupiter will be a conspicuous object in the eastern sky at about sunset reaching the meridian at about 10 p.m. Saturn is in the constellation Pisces and slowly moving westwards. It rises about 9 p.m. in the middle of the month. The Ring ellipse has major axis 43" and minor axis 4". Uranus

can be seen close to the star σ Arietis (magnitude 5.5) which is nearly equal to its brightness. The minor planet Ceres will be in opposition on August 21, but its magnitude at the time will be 7.8 and the object will be visible only with some simple optical aid.

Of the comets reported this year, only Whipple's Comet is still fairly bright and accessible to instruments of moderate aperture.

Comet 1925 II (Schwassmann-Wachman) a periodic comet, was found on May 6 by Van Biesbroeck on plates taken at the Yerkes Observatory. It was a very faint object of magnitude 15.5. The comet has a slightly eccentric orbit situated between the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn. As during previous oppositions, Van Biesbroeck notes striking fluctuations in the brightness of this Comet.

Among interesting phenomena occurring in August, mention has to be made of the Perseid meteoric showers August 10-11. The position of the radiant point is R.A. 3^h 0^m Declination 57°N.