

in 1887 as a supplement to the *Transactions* of the American Entomological Society. His work was summarised by himself in the *Cresson types of hymenoptera* published in 1916 as No. 1 of the *Memoirs* of the American Entomological Society.

In 1865 and 1866 Cresson was also editor of the *Practical entomologist*, the first American periodical devoted to economic entomology.

Cresson is estimated as "a man of greatest diffidence, devoid of all self-display, shrinking from notoriety of all kinds . . . the personification of unselfishness and of devotion to the advancement of sciences" and ever ready to help and encourage young workers.

Cresson died at Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, April 19, 1926.

Smyly, Philip Crampton (1838-1904)

PHILIP CRAMPTON SMYLY, an Irish Surgeon and Laryngologist, was born in Dublin, June 17, 1838. He belonged to a family of medical men. His father was a surgeon of good position. His grand-uncle Sir Philip Crampton was thrice President of Dublin College of Surgeons. His younger brother Sir William Josiah Smyly was an obstetrician and gynæcologist of distinction in Dublin. Philip Crampton Smyly entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1854 and became M.B. in 1860. After study in

Berlin, he became M.D. and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in 1863.

HIS CAREER

In 1861, he was appointed surgeon to the Meath Hospital, his father being one of his colleagues and his grand-uncle, a distinguished predecessor. He kept this post till his death. He was a member of the viceregal staff (1869-92); President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (1878-79); Representative of the College on the General Medical Council (1898-1900); Surgeon-in-ordinary in Ireland to Queen Victoria (1895-1901); and Honorary Surgeon to King Edward VII. He was also President of the Laryngological Association of Great Britain (1889) and of the Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Associations (1902). He was consulting surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of Throat and Ear, the Children's Hospital and the Rotunda Hospital of Dublin. He was knighted in 1892.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

Smyly specialised in laryngology, a field almost untouched in his earlier days. He introduced the laryngoscope into Ireland in 1860. His observations on the use of tobacco juice as an antidote in strychnin poisoning received some notice.

Smyly died suddenly from cerebral hæmorrhage in Dublin April 8, 1904.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

Planets during July 1938.—Both the planets Venus and Mercury will be visible as evening stars during the month. The latter will reach greatest eastern elongation ($27^{\circ} 15'$) on July 31. It will closely approach the first magnitude star Regulus (α Leonis) on July 26, the angular distance at the time between planet and star being less than a degree. Mars attains conjunction with the Sun on July 24 and will be invisible. Jupiter, rising about 9 p.m., is favourably situated for observation and will be a conspicuous object in the latter part of the night. So also will be Saturn which will be rising about midnight. The planet is slowly moving eastward in the constellation Piscium and on July 10 will be in quadrature with the Sun. The width of the rings is gradually increasing. Uranus is in the constellation Aries and will be visible as a morning star; on July 22 the planet will be in conjunction with the Moon. A lunar occultation of some interest that can be observed in India is that of ω Scorpii (magnitude 4.1) which

will take place at about 9 p.m. on the night of July 8.

Gale's Comet.—This periodic comet was detected on May 1 by Cunningham at Harvard. At the time of discovery, the comet was in the constellation Ophiuchus and is reported to have been a diffuse object of the tenth magnitude without central condensation or nucleus. The probable time of perihelion passage seems to be June 17 and according to the Ephemeris computed, the comet is moving southeastwards in the constellation Sagittarius and getting brighter. The last apparition of the comet was in 1927.

A Faint Star of Large Proper Motion.—A faint star (of magnitude 11.8) has been found at the Nizamiah Observatory, to have a proper motion of nearly a second and a quarter per year. It is situated in Cetus and the position for 1900 is given by R. A. $2^{\text{h}} 0^{\text{m}} 10^{\text{s}}$ Declination $18^{\circ} 5'.4$ South. The star is probably a dwarf and one of the nearest neighbours of the Sun.

T. P. B.