without a wish that has its object in the terrestrial globe, perfectly unassuming (yet) openly happy in his success."

His Honours

His discovery of Uranus won him the Copley Medal and Fellowship of the Royal Society. It also brought him to the notice of the king who appointed him court astronomer with a salary of £ 200 a year. In 1786 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Gottingen. The King of Poland sent him his portrait. His place became a place of pilgrimage for scientists, princes and grand dukes without number. Academic honours came from many universities and learned bodies. He was created a knight in 1816.

In his eighty-fourth year, Herschel died of bilious fever on August 25, 1822.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

Planets during December 1938.—Venus is a morning star and will be a bright object visible in the eastern sky for about two hours before sunrise. On December 26, it attains greatest brilliancy, the stellar magnitude at the time being — 4·4. Mars is gradually getting brighter and can be seen as a star of the first magnitude, rising about two and a half hours after midnight; it will be in the constellation Libra at the end of the month.

Jupiter will continue to be visible in the western sky in the early part of the night. So also will be Saturn which will be on the meridian at about sunset. On December 15, the planet will be stationary as seen from the earth. The ring ellipse is still nearly edgeways, the dimensions of the major and minor axes being 41·6″ and 5·9″ respectively. Uranus is slowly moving westwards in the constellation Aries and observers with a binocular can easily locate the planet about a degree north of the fifth magnitude star σ Arietis. The following close conjunctions of the Moon with planets will occur during the month—on December 5, Uranus; on December 17, Mars; December 18, Venus; and December 20, Mercury.

Jupiter's Satellites X and XI.—Since discovery, further observations of the two new satellites of Jupiter have been made at Mount Wilson. From the first five positions obtained, Dr. Paul Herget of Cincinnati has computed two orbits for satellites X, one assuming a retrograde motion for the satellite and the other a direct one. He states that the later observations, however, do not appear to confirm the retrograde orbit. Dr. R. H. Wilson has calculated an orbit (U.A.I. circ 728) with eccentricity 0·14 and period 254·21 days. The elements of the direct orbit are similar to those of the sixth and seventh satellites of Jupiter.

A Faint Star with Large Proper Motion.—In the course of the survey for proper motions of faint stars at the Nizamiah Observatory, the star Hyd.ph, — 18°·9743 has been found to have a motion of nearly one and a half seconds of arc per annum. The star is of the twelfth magnitude (photographic scale) and the position (1900·0) is given by R. A. $5^h\ 4^m\ 7^s$, Declination 18°15′·7·S The star is probably a dwarf and one of the nearest neighbours of the Sun.

T. P. B.

OBITUARY.

N. G. Majumdar.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. N. G. Majumdar, Superintendent of the Archæological Section of the Indian Museum, under very tragic circumstances. He was murdered by dacoits on the night of 10th November 1938, at Johi, in the district of Dadu, Sind, where he was camping in connection with an explorative survey of the hilly country, northward of Manchur Lake.

Mr. Majumdar was a brilliant graduate of the Calcutta University. After taking his M.A. in 1920, he took up the study of Archæology under Sir John Marshall. He carried out extensive excavations in southern Sind. He was reputed to be one of the best archæologists of India and his untimely death has brought to a close, a very promising career.