

well as through his permanent researches. Among those who benefited by his guidance may be mentioned the names of Brieger, Goldmann, Herter, Hürthle, Kast, C. Th. Mörner, Preusse, Röhmman, Schotten v. Udránszky, N. Wedenski. One who came into personal contact with the man could not fail to admire his untiring devotion to science, and to feel grateful for the inspiration derived from him.

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#### ALFRED TRESCA.

THE session of November 27, 1896, of the '*Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie nationale*,' under the presidency of M. Mascart, was devoted mainly to ceremonies in memory of the late M. Alfred Tresca, recently deceased. The discourse pronounced by M. Haton de la Goupillière was the main feature of the evening programme.

Monsieur A. Tresca was the son of the distinguished investigator, Henri Tresca, who was the successor of General Morin as the head of the *Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers*, and who followed and improved upon the methods of the latter in the prosecution of researches of importance in the field of applied science, and especially in the investigation of the characteristics of the materials of construction and of the most important classes of prime movers and other machines. The younger Tresca followed in the same path and gave his life to similarly valuable work. The three men have lead rather than followed in all developments in their department of work during the century. The work of Morin on the properties of the materials of engineering and his extensive introduction, in original ways, of graphical methods of illustration, the extensive study by the elder Tresca of the heat-motors, and the researches of the younger Tresca in applied physics and engineering, have been the principal contributions of the

*Conservatoire*, for many years past, to their department of science. It is an interesting case of 'intellectual heredity,' as the writer has called it. A personal acquaintance, slight, but quite sufficient to confirm the conclusions here reached, impressed the writer also with the fact that the influence of each upon his successor, in this respect, was deep and most effective of result. The three men, talented, industrious and persistent, by similar methods accomplished similarly useful work.

As M. Haton says: "Inheritor of a name illustrious in science and honored also for services rendered our society, he has firmly upheld its prestige. Trained in the school of his father, Henri Tresca, he learned the traditions of industrial science, that difficult science, and, at the same time, traditions of honor and of labor to which he was always faithful." He was always inclined to avoid public notice, "but his colleagues, his students, unanimously render just tribute both to the extent of his work and to its value in instruction." The address closes with an affectionate and graceful tribute of esteem and admiration, of grief and of eulogy.

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#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### ANCIENT MAYAN HISTORY.

A YUCATECAN author, Don Juan Francisco Molina Solis, has recently written a meritorious history of Yucatan (*Historia del Descubrimiento y Conquista de Yucatán*, pp. 911. Merida, 1896). By way of introduction it has a sketch of the ancient history of the peninsula, covering sixty pages.

This discusses the early immigrations, the foundation of the great cities, the establishment of the confederation which for some generations appears to have controlled the peninsula and allowed a peaceful development of its culture, and its unfortunate violent dissolution leading to the destruction of the former mart of Chichen Itzá