

# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1914

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## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE SECTION OF MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

WE have lost since the last meeting of the section several distinguished members who have in the past added so much to the usefulness of our discussions. These include Sir Robert Ball, who was one of our oldest attendants, and was president of the section at the Manchester meeting in 1886; Professor Poynting, who was President of the Section at Dover in 1899, and Sir David Gill, who was President of the Association at Leicester in 1907.

It seems appropriate at this meeting in the city of Melbourne to mention one who passed away from his scientific labors somewhat previous to the last meeting. I allude to W. Sutherland, of this city, whose writings have thrown so much light on molecular physics and whose scientific perspicacity was only equaled by his modesty.

This meeting of the British Association will be a memorable one as being indicative, as it were, of the scientific coming of age of Australia. Not that the maturity of Australian science was unknown to those best able to judge, indeed the fact could not but be known abroad, for in England alone there are many workers in science hailing from Australia and New Zealand, who have enhanced science with their investigations and who hold many important scientific posts in that country. In short, one finds it best nowadays to ask of any young investigator if he comes from the Antipodes.

<sup>1</sup> Section A: Australia, 1914.