

he was also one of the first astronomers in England to use a telescope, and, like Galileo, Fabricius, and Scheiner, was one of the early observers of the spots on the sun. Born at Oxford in 1560, he was a year older than Henry Briggs. He graduated from St. Mary's Hall, and became an ardent student of mathematics forty years before the inauguration of the first university chair of mathematics. At the age of twenty-five he entered the service of Sir Walter Raleigh, by whom he was employed in the survey of the newly founded colony of Virginia. The greater part of Harriot's life, however, was passed in the neighborhood of London, where he came under the patronage of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, who gave him a pension and assigned him rooms at Sion House, which stands on the banks of the Thames opposite Kew. When the earl was confined to the Tower through the complicity of some of his family in the Gunpowder Plot, Harriot and two other mathematical worthies, Thomas Hughes and Walter Warner, often bore him company. They were known as "the three magi." Harriot appears to have passed an uneventful life, and at his death was buried in St. Christopher's Church, on the site of which now stands the Bank of England. A monument erected to his memory was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. As an algebraist Harriot is a connecting link between Vieta and Descartes. His "*Artis Analyticæ Praxis*" was not published until ten years after his death. The revival of his fame as an astronomer was due to von Zach, who, while on a visit to the Earl of Egremont in 1784, discovered some of Harriot's writings beneath a pile of old stable accounts at Petworth Castle; while the reduction of Harriot's observations of the comet of 1607 formed one of the first tasks of Bessel's astronomical career. Some of Harriot's manuscripts are in the British Museum.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

THE president of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome has transmitted to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the State Department, a copy of resolutions

adopted in April, 1921, by the permanent committee of the institute, authorizing the conferring of the title "Donating Member" upon any person who makes a gift, donation, or contribution to the institute amounting in value to 10,000 Italian lire, which at normal rates of exchange is equivalent to about \$2,000.

The permanent committee wished to demonstrate in a tangible manner the gratitude of the International Agricultural Institute toward all persons whose generous impulse prompts them to make gifts to it in money or in kind, thereby contributing toward the fulfillment of the mission intrusted to it.

The permanent committee has already named as a donating member Mr. Victor Vermorel, member of the National Academy of Agriculture of France and former senator, thus testifying to him its gratitude for a generous gift which he made to it recently.

The International Institute of Agriculture was established as the direct result of the efforts of David Lubin, a successful merchant of California, with the active support of the King of Italy, who foresaw the advantages which would accrue to agriculture, commerce, and industry from an international clearing-house for systematically collecting and disseminating official information supplied by the various governments of the world on agricultural production, consumption, movements, surpluses, deficits, and prices of agricultural products, transportation, plant and animal diseases and insect pests, rural credits and insurance, standard of living, wages and hours of labor on farms, cooperative organizations of farmers, legislation affecting agriculture, and similar information. The international treaty was drafted at Rome on June 7, 1905, and has since been ratified by more than 60 governments.

The institute survived the trying period of the World War and is now entering upon a period of expansion and increased usefulness. Its work benefits all peoples. In accordance with the recent action of the permanent committee, which is made up of delegates from the adhering governments and serves as a board of directors of the International In-

stitute of Agriculture, citizens of the United States and other countries who are in sympathy with the purposes of the institute have an opportunity to contribute to its support and development and to receive permanent recognition therefor as "donating members" by having their names and nationality and the date of their donation inscribed on a marble tablet which will be placed in a conspicuous position in the halls or vestibule of the marble palace occupied by the institute, situated in a beautiful park on an elevation overlooking the Eternal City. Such donations can be made either through the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, or the American delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Italy.

THE EDINBURGH MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

As has already been noted here the British Association meets at Edinburgh beginning on September 7. It last met in that city in 1892 under the presidency of Sir Archibald Geikie. The president, Sir Edward Thorpe, will address the association on aspects and problems of post-war science, pure and applied. An evening discourse will be given by Professor C. W. Inglis on a comparison of the Forth and Quebec Bridges, and there will be an opportunity to visit the former. Another discourse will be given on Edinburgh and oceanography by Professor W. A. Herdman, who, as president of the association at Cardiff last year, proposed a new exploration of the oceans like that of the *Challenger*. Sir Oliver Lodge will give the opening of the three lectures to the citizens on "Speech through the ether, or the scientific principles underlying wireless telephony"; Professor Dendy will lecture on "The stream of life"; and Professor H. J. Fleure on "Countries as personalities." A special lecture, arranged in collaboration with Section M (Agriculture), for agriculturists will be given by Dr. E. J. Russell on "Science and crop production." Hitherto all addresses of the presidents of sections have been formally read, and never discussed, but in the present program, the following addresses

are announced to initiate debates: Sir W. Morley Fletcher, on the boundaries of physiology; Professor Lloyd Morgan, on consciousness and the unconscious, opening the newly established section of psychology; Dr. D. H. Scott, on the present position of the theory of descent in relation to the early history of plants; Sir Henry Hadow, on the place of music in a liberal education; and Mr. C. S. Orwin, on the study of agricultural economics. Other addresses will be given on the problems of physics by Professor O. W. Richardson, on the laboratory of the living organism by Dr. M. O. Forster, by Dr. J. S. Flett on experimental geology, by Professor E. S. Goodrich on some problems in evolution, by Dr. D. G. Hogarth on the application of geography, by Mr. W. L. Hichens on principles by which wages are determined, and by Professor A. H. Gibson on water power.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE South African Association for the Advancement of Science will meet next year at Lorenzo Marques under the presidency of Dr. A. W. Rogers, director of the Geological Survey of the Union of South Africa.

THE council of the Royal Society of Medicine made, on July 6, the first award of its gold medal to Sir Almoth Wright, F.R.S., in recognition of his services to medicine during the war. The medal is awarded for original discovery in medicine and other allied sciences, or for the practical application of the results of previous investigations of other scientists, or for the most valuable contribution in any other way towards the progress of the art and science of medicine, preventive medicine, or surgery.

It is reported that Professor Edouard Branly, of Paris, is to receive this year's Nobel prize for physics.

WE learn from *Nature* that the French Société de Géographie has celebrated its centenary. There was a reception for delegates at the house of Prince Roland Bonaparte, president of the society, and M. Millerand,