

stance was a rainfall of 1.19 inch at Parsonstown on June 10 and no rain whatever at any other of the telegraph stations of the Meteorological Office in this country. Heavy local rains of this type, with downpours of an inch or upwards, were recorded on May 17, 18, 20, and 21, and June 10. It is also to be noted that many thunderstorms occurred during the period unaccompanied with rain, just as happened generally in the east of Scotland in June 1887, on the day of the Queen's Jubilee; and frequently large drops of rain fell, quite insufficient even to wet the ground, and scattered over narrow paths of inconsiderable length. Very heavy rains occurred over the eastern districts of Scotland, practically terminating the drought there, on June 22 and 23, when on these two days 4.20 inches fell at the North Esk Reservoir on the Pentland Hills, 3.32 inches at Roslin, 2.21 inches at Aberdeen, 2.06 inches at Logie Coldstone, near Ballater, and nearly two inches at many places, whilst generally in the west little and at many places no rain fell at all.

Temperature was phenomenally and almost continuously high in March, April, May, and June, specially as regards the first three of these months. Thus, for London the mean of the three months was $4^{\circ}3$ above the mean of the previous 130 years; and in Edinburgh $3^{\circ}3$. The only springs since 1763 with a mean temperature exceeding that of 1893 were for London, 1811 and 1794, which were respectively $5^{\circ}2$ and $4^{\circ}3$ above the average; and for Edinburgh, 1779 and 1781, which exceeded the mean by $4^{\circ}0$ and $3^{\circ}8$. It is highly interesting to note that large as these figures are, the Ben Nevis figures far exceed them, the mean temperature at this high-level observatory for March, April, and May last being $6^{\circ}6$ above the mean of these months, a result due to the prevailing anticyclones, which so frequently are attended there with abnormally high temperatures.

The drought has also extended over nearly the whole of Europe, large portions of Canada, the United States, and other parts of the globe. In the north of Italy no living person recollects to have seen the Italian Lakes so low, and the southern Alps so greatly denuded of their snow covering. It is estimated that over the wheat-growing countries of the world this valuable crop will be to no inconsiderable extent under the average. On the other hand, in other parts of the world the rainfall has been exceptionally heavy, and followed with widespread disastrous floods, as in the cotton districts of the United States, and in Queensland.

In London, the total amount of rain that fell during the 110 days from March 4 to June 22 was 0.77 inch. Mr. Symons, our best authority on the question of droughts, enumerates eight droughts which have been recorded during the present century. Of these the longest continued was 105 days, from March 11 to June 23, 1844; and thus the drought of the present year is the greatest in the British Islands authenticated by meteorological records.

NICOLAS IVANOVICH LOBATCHEFSKY.

NICOLAS IVANOVICH LOBATCHEFSKY, the founder of Non-Euclidean Geometry, was born on November 2, 1793.

A student, and subsequently professor at Kasan, the Physico-Mathematical Society of that interesting University have determined to celebrate the centenary of his birth by founding an International prize for Mathematical, and in particular, for Geometrical work bearing upon the late-born but remarkable branch of mathematical science and philosophy which owes its existence to Lobatchefsky's genius and has earned for him the title of the Copernicus of Geometry.

A committee including the names of Tchebyche, Poincaré, Hermite, Darboux, Klein, Sophus Lie, Linde-

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mann, Cayley, Beltrami, Newcomb, Mittag-Leffler, and over a hundred other notabilities of the mathematical world in both hemispheres, has been appointed to assist in carrying out the plan.

At this time of day it would be superfluous to dilate on the pre-eminent claims to honourable recognition of one who has played a principal part in reconstituting the basis of geometrical thought and realised his ideas in a series of memoirs with a thoroughness and precision which Gauss in 1846 characterised as the work of "a true geometer."

Any English mathematician (and it is to be hoped there will be many) desirous of co-operating in erecting this monument (if it may be so called) to the memory of a great scientific reformer, may do so by forwarding a subscription addressed to Prof. Vassilief, President of the Physico-Mathematical Society, University of Kasan.

NOTES.

WE greatly regret to record the death of Dr. John Rae, F.R.S., at the age of eighty-one. It was he who, in 1854, collected relics of the ill-fated Franklin expedition in the *Errebus* and *Terror*.

AMONG the Civil List pensions granted during the year ending June 20, 1893, we note one of £75 to Mrs. Dittmar, in consideration of the services to chemical science rendered by her late husband, Prof. William Dittmar, F.R.S., and one of £50 to Mrs. T. Wolstenholme, in consideration of the merits of her husband, the late Rev. Joseph Wolstenholme, as a mathematician, and of her straitened circumstances.

FOR the convenience of those who wish to be present at the Rothamsted celebration on Saturday next, a special train will leave St. Pancras for Harpenden at 2.2 p.m., returning at 5 p.m. In connection with the celebrations at Rothamsted, it is interesting to recall the circumstance that in the early part of the present century the signal services rendered by Francis, Duke of Bedford, to the theory and practice of agriculture were recognised by the erection, in Russell Square, of a colossal statue to his memory. The scheme, in the first instance, was initiated by Sir Joseph Banks, then president of the Royal Society, the first meeting on the subject being held at his house in Soho Square. Subscriptions were solicited from the various agricultural societies existing at the time, and from private individuals, and these flowed in with many expressions of approval of the object in view. The statue and its pedestal, the latter emblematical of the art of husbandry, were designed by Richard Westmacott, who received the sum of £6000 for the work, each subscriber receiving an engraving of the design. An inscription records that the statue to the Duke was erected by his fellow labourers in the field of agricultural improvement in gratitude for his unwearied endeavours to improve the theory and practice of agriculture.

THE French Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its annual meeting from August 3 to August 13, at Besancon, under the presidency of Dr. Bouchard. The subjects for discussion in different sections are the mechanical traction of tramways, the local records from which a forecast of the weather at a given place can be made, the rôle of humus, works of commerce, and the administrative measures necessary to prevent the use of unfit articles of food.

THE death is announced of Mr. Walter White, who for upwards of forty years served the Royal Society, first in the capacity of clerk and afterwards of assistant secretary and Librarian. Mr. White retired from the latter post in 1885, and