

have been held, and the reports which have been published under its auspices, the issue of *Science Abstracts*, the fortnightly meetings in London which resulted in the reading and annual publication of some fifty papers concerned with all branches of physical science, the annual provincial meeting—all these activities have helped to provide a background for the specialist worker in physics such as could be obtained by membership of no other British society. And, as is shown by their membership of the Physical Society of London, many fellows of the Optical Society have not been slow to recognise these advantages.

In some quarters a fear has been expressed that the fusion of the two Societies will leave workers in applied optics without a forum in which to express their views. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Optical science is no longer confined to a narrow sphere of influence but has become the handmaid of all sciences, and optical instruments are now tools of industry. The amalgamation now completed is a visible sign of the union, to their mutual benefit, of the most representative body of producers of optical methods and instruments with

the body which represents the largest and most important group of users of such methods and instruments. Under the auspices of the new Physical Society, the Guthrie lecture and the Thomas Young oration will be delivered as heretofore; papers on optical subjects have been a prominent feature in the *Proceedings of the Physical Society of London*, and their number will be materially increased under the new regime; arrangements for special lectures on topics of optical interest have been made, and the session now opening will be inaugurated by a lecture by Dr. J. W. French on "The Manufacture of Optical Glass"; and the probability of an increased output of papers is provided for by an increase of one part per annum in the number of published parts of the *Proceedings*.

The Councils of the Societies have no regrets in carrying out this amalgamation. They believe that it is, in brief, a plain commonsense measure fully in the spirit of the times and long overdue, and that its adoption will forward the interests of physical science and assist materially in the development of the science of optics.

### Obituary

MR. P. M. C. KERMODE

**MR. PHILIP MOORE CALLOW KERMODE**, for many years the foremost authority on the antiquities of the Isle of Man, died on Sept. 5, at the age of seventy-seven years. The son of the Rev. W. Kermode of Ramsey, he was educated at King William's School, and was called to the Manx Bar in 1878. In the following year he founded the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society, with the work of which he was closely identified for the remainder of his life.

Every aspect of Manx archæology and tradition held Mr. Kermode's interest, as was shown in the many contributions made by him to *Yn Lioar Manninagh*, the publication of the Antiquarian Society, of which he was editor. His authority was frequently invoked by the late Sir John Rhys, when dealing with Manx tradition and folklore; but his outstanding contribution to Manx archæology lies in his studies of the Celtic and Norse monuments of the island, and their inscriptions in runic and ogham, of which the results were embodied in "Manx Crosses" (1907), a standard

authority, in which breadth of treatment and range of knowledge transcend local interest.

Among Mr. Kermode's more recent discoveries was that of an interesting Norse ship-burial, described last year, which revealed a ship of somewhat unusual type. In 1922, Mr. Kermode was appointed curator of the Manx Museum at Douglas, and in 1929 he received the honorary degree of M.A. from the University of Liverpool.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. H. C. Chadwick, formerly curator of the Marine Biological Station, Port Erin, and afterwards research zoologist at the Station, and honorary lecturer in marine biology at the University of Liverpool, on Sept. 16, aged seventy-five years.

Dr. F. H. Hatch, O.B.E., technical adviser to the Mines Department, past-president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, and author of several well-known textbooks on metalliferous mining, on Sept. 22, aged sixty-eight years.

### News and Views

Nevil Maskelyne, 1732-1811

ON Oct. 6 occurs the bicentenary of the birth of Nevil Maskelyne—the worthy successor of Flamsteed, Halley, and Bradley—who for forty-six years held the office of Astronomer Royal and will always be remembered as the founder of the "Nautical Almanac". A man of mild and genial temper, Maskelyne was admirably fitted for the post he occupied so long, and at Greenwich steadily pursued the aims for which the Observatory was founded. Ever ready to acknow-

ledge the work of others and to further the interests of science, he gained the esteem of all who knew him, and when, after his laborious experiments on the slopes of Schiehallion, Perthshire, made to determine the density of the earth, he was awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society, Sir John Pringle in addressing him said that the Council presented him with the medal not only as a token of their acknowledgment of his work but as a "sincere pledge of their affection".