

script, with others, had been preserved and was ultimately published. Nearly two centuries passed before any memorial was raised to him whom Herschel called "the pride and boast of British astronomy". In 1826, however, the Preston astronomer and lecturer Moses Holden (1777-1864) devoted the proceeds of a lecture to the erection of a tablet to Horrocks in St. Michael's Church, Toxteth, Liverpool; in 1859 a memorial chapel and window were added to Hoole Church; and after the transit of 1874 a movement was set on foot which resulted in the placing within the monument to Conduitt, Newton's nephew, in Westminster Abbey, of a scroll recalling the great achievement of Horrocks in 1639.

#### August Kundt (1839-1894)

ON November 18, the centenary occurs of the distinguished German physicist August Adolph Eduard Eberhard Kundt, the successor of Helmholtz at Berlin. Born at Schwerin, Mecklenburg, he studied at Leipzig under Hankel, Bruhns and Neumann, and at Berlin under Eneke and Förster, first devoting himself to astronomy. Entering the laboratory of Magnus, in 1864 he graduated with a thesis on the polarization of light. He became a *Privat Dozent* in Berlin in 1867 and then was successively professor of physics at Zurich Federal Technical Highschool (1868), at Würzburg (1870), and at Strasburg (1872), where he took a prominent part in the organization of the new university; of this he became rector in 1877. Finally, in 1888, he was chosen to succeed Helmholtz in the chair of experimental physics and as director of the Physical Institute at Berlin. He died at Israelsdorf near Lübeck on May 21, 1894, a few months before Helmholtz. His original researches were mainly in the domains of light and sound. By an ingenious method he was able to determine the velocity of sound in various gases. In light, he made inquiries into the problems of anomalous dispersion by liquids and vapours and by very thin films of metal. 'Kundt's phenomenon' is the rotation observed, under the influence of magnetic force, of the plane of polarization in certain vapours and gases. For his experiments on dispersion by metal films he made no fewer than 2,000 prisms prepared by electrolytic deposition upon platinized glass.

#### Prof. Georges Dieulafoy (1839-1911)

PROF. GEORGES DIEULAFOY, a celebrated Paris physician, was born on November 18, 1839, at Toulouse, where his uncle, Paul Dieulafoy, was professor of clinical surgery in the medical faculty and induced him to become a doctor. After acting as his uncle's house surgeon for two years, he went to Paris to complete his education and spent seven years as hospital resident under Trousseau, Velpeau, Denonvilliers, Jaccoud, Potain, Axenfeld and Tardieu. He qualified in 1869 with a thesis on sudden death in typhoid fever. In 1872 he became an assistant professor (*agrégé*) with a thesis on contagion, and the following year published a medico-chirurgical treatise on the diagnosis and treatment of morbid fluids in

which he described the aspirator to which his name has been given. In 1880 appeared the first edition of his famous "Pathologie de médecine interne", which in the course of thirty-one years went through sixteen editions and was translated into English, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Polish and Greek. Six years later he was appointed to the chair of internal pathology at the Necker Hospital, where he remained until 1896, when he succeeded Germain Sée at the Hôtel Dieu as professor of clinical medicine; he held that office until his retirement in 1909. During this period he published a number of clinical lectures in six volumes under the title of "Clinique médicale de l'Hôtel Dieu de Paris". In 1910 he was elected president of the Academy of Medicine, of which he had been a member since 1879. His death took place on August 16, 1911, at the age of seventy-two.

#### The Newcomen Society

THE annual meeting of the Newcomen Society was held on November 8, when Col. C. E. Davies, secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was elected president for the ensuing year. Col. Davies for many years acted as corresponding honorary secretary in the United States for the Society. The annual report referred to a further large increase in membership, the total number of members on October 1, 1939, being 1,252. Twenty-five papers were contributed during the year, while in England a summer meeting was held in Suffolk and in the United States a pilgrimage was held in Alabama. For the information of members a *Newcomen Quarterly Bulletin* is now published. The finances of the Society continue to remain in a satisfactory state and the issue of a fifth *Extra Publication* is under consideration. Though for the time the monthly meetings have been suspended, papers are being sent in for the *Transactions*. At the close of the business, the retiring president, Mr. W. A. Young, read his presidential address on "Thomas Newcomen—Ironmonger: the Contemporary Background", and Dr. T. E. Lones read "A Précis of Metallum Martis and an Analysis of Dud Dudley's Alleged Invention".

#### Statistics of London

THE latest volume of "London Statistics," that for 1936-38 (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 15s. 6d.) raises once more in an acute and realistic form some of the most vital and interesting questions in social science and economics and in practical statesmanship that we of the present generation have to face. Among them not the least significant are those concerned with population movements to and from the London area and within that area. The population of this Greater London increased during 1937 by 80,000, and numbered 8,655,000 before evacuation, as compared with 7,000,000 for New York. This huge total is about double that of the administrative county over which the L.C.C. has partial control and from which there has been continuous migration since 1901. In that year the population of the administrative county was 4,536,267,