

Gael," and the book on the Brehon laws, barely completed before she left England for the last time, which is to be published shortly under the title "Liberty, Order, and Law under Native Irish Rule," dedicated to "the Rebuilders of Ireland United and Free."

Like Plato's philosopher "the spectator of all time and all existence," Mrs. Bryant by her clearness of vision and width of outlook made it impossible to think of anything mean or ungenerous in association with her. She was a great teacher, a great personality, and a splendid friend, a perpetual source of inspiration and joy to those who knew her. Her spirit lives, not only in the school she helped to build (advancing it alike in science and the humanities till it stood first among

a band of sister-schools), but in all those who owe to her a grasp of the ideal, an understanding of the meaning and value of life.

M. H. W.

WE much regret to announce the death on September 21, at the age of fifty-eight years, of Prof. F. T. Trouton, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physics in the University of London.

THE secretary of the Institution of Electrical Engineers informs us of the death of Mr. Louis Heathcote Walter, a member of the Institution staff, who had been editor of *Science Abstracts* since 1903.

Current Topics and Events.

It was no mean occasion that the members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society met together on Wednesday, September 20, to celebrate. To have held aloft the lamp of learning for a hundred years, and to have conserved and preserved, amid all the changing scenes and conditions of a century, the ancient ruins of St. Leonard's Hospital, the Roman Wall and the Multangular Tower, the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey, and built up a museum second to none in the provinces in the richness of its collections, is indeed a record of which the society might feel justly proud. Moreover, during this period the society has been instrumental in founding two most powerful and wide-reaching institutions, for the Yorkshire Museum was the birthplace and cradle of the British Association and the younger Museums Association. It was therefore very fitting that the society should celebrate the occasion of its hundredth birthday and receive the congratulations of its honoured patron His Majesty the King, and various universities and learned societies. Mr. W. H. St. Quintin, the president, occupied the chair, and was supported by the vice-presidents and council, the hon. treasurer (Mr. Edwin Gray), the hon. secretary (Mr. C. E. Elmhirst), the keeper of the museums (Dr. Walter E. Collinge), and the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, the City Sheriff, Aldermen, and Council. After briefly tracing the history of the society, the work it has done, and recounting its benefactors, Mr. St. Quintin pointed out that a considerable sum of money will be necessary if the society is to continue its good work for the advancement of science, and he asked that in this, its centenary year, a substantial amount should be forthcoming. Addresses were read or presented from a number of leading scientific societies and other national institutions. His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Jhalawar offered congratulations on behalf of the Indian Empire, and congratulatory messages were received from other distinguished people. At the close of the meeting a highly picturesque procession was formed to the Cathedral, where a special evensong was held, the Lord Bishop of Beverley officiating. The delegates and visitors were later entertained to dinner in the De Grey Rooms, after which a conversazione was held in the Yorkshire Museum and the Tempest Anderson Hall.

ACCORDING to the September issue of the *Decimal Educator*, the official organ of the Decimal Association, the metric system has been or is soon to be adopted in Greece, Poland, Haiti, and Japan, while the Russian government is rapidly introducing it into its administrative departments. The British Chamber of Commerce in the Argentine and the Consul for Bolivia again warn British exporters of the futility of quoting in pounds, shillings, and pence for amounts specified in Imperial weights and measures. Mr. W. A. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, states that "these weights and measures of ours cheat the home buyer and arouse the suspicion of the foreigner," and asks how many buyers know the difference in weight of a peck of potatoes and a peck of peas. The Lancashire cotton market has ceased to quote cotton in sixty-fourths of a penny and now gives the price in hundredths, but we still appear likely to fulfil the prediction of Augustus de Morgan and "adopt the metric system when every other country has done so." Sir Richard Gregory, president of the association, recommends in an introductory article that the metric system should be made the sole legal system in all departments of State, and the nation thus prepared for its general introduction, which is bound to come in its time, as it is foolish to expect the world to adopt the Imperial as an international system.

A REPORT has been received that the ruins of an ancient city of great extent have been discovered in Colombia by the South American Archaeological Expedition from Chicago. As yet the information is scanty, but Dr. J. A. Mason, the leader of the expedition, states that the ruins are situated in the Province of Magdalena, twenty miles south of Santa Marta: "There must have been a tremendous population here at one time, as the country is covered with house sites. The country is very mountainous, and the houses, which were of wood, were built on terraces made with retaining walls." It is not certain that these terraces may not be those used in terraced cultivation, but Colombia has been little explored, and a detailed report of the excavations must be awaited before the value of the discovery can be estimated.

AFTER having been lost for centuries the remains of the ancient monastery of Nendrum, on Mahee