

Britain, of the remains of the large Trilobite *Paradoxides* in the "Lower Lingula Flags" of St. David's. Dr. Hicks' curiosity was roused. He commenced to search for fossils among the old rocks around him. As he himself has said, the enthusiasm with which every new find was welcomed by Salter, "to whom they were first sent, was in itself a sufficient stimulus for any exertions required." Salter secured for him a grant-in-aid from the British Association. In the 1864 meeting at Berth, Salter reported that the energetic work of Hicks "has already brought to light more than thirty species of fossils". These discoveries "made a large addition to the Primordial fauna".

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

Hicks pursued his work with unflagging devotion. He pushed his enquiries into the very oldest pre-cambrian rocks, both in Wales and Scotland. He also gave attention to the strata immediately preceding the present order of things and pursued with equal ardour, the evidences of glaciation in South Wales and Middlesex, the records of old bone-caves and the remains of mammoth in the Thames Valley. No man had a keener eye for fossils. To his eyes, rocks which had for long been deemed unfossiliferous disclosed evidences of past life. In 1890, Hicks turned his attention to North Devon and he was the first to discover a rich fauna in the Morte slates of that

region, which were considered to be entirely unfossiliferous.

HIS WRITINGS

He published 82 papers in his life-time. The first paper entitled *On the lower lingula flags of St. Davids* appeared in V. 5 of the *Proceedings* of the Geological Society in 1864. The last formal paper was on *The age of the Morte Slate fossils*. It appeared in V. 4 of the *Geological magazine* in 1897.

HIS HONOURS

Hicks was greatly respected for his enthusiasm for his hobby. He himself used to say that in his busy professional life, he found geology a "means of recreation and of much intellectual enjoyment". He took a prominent part in scientific organisations. He was President of the Geologists' Association from 1883 to 1885 and of the Geological Society from 1896 to 1898. The Geological Society awarded him the Bigsby Medal in 1883. The Royal Society of London elected him one of its Fellows in 1885. He was a Honorary Member of several foreign learned bodies. He was often involved in controversy, but he enjoyed an intellectual battle, the stress of which never ruffled the course of friendship for more than a moment.

An attack of rheumatic gout affected his heart and proved fatal on November 18, 1899.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

1. **Total Solar Eclipse.**—There will be a total eclipse of the sun on June 8th, 1937, but the phenomenon will be completely invisible in India. The path of totality commences about 1,500 miles to the north-east of Australia and crossing the Pacific Ocean, ends at sunset in Peru on the west coast of South America. The duration of totality will be 7^m. 4^s. in the middle of the path. It is announced that an American expedition is proceeding to one of the islands in the South Pacific for observing the eclipse.

2. **Planets during June 1937.**—Venus will be a morning star throughout the month and will attain greatest elongation from the

Sun (46° W.) on June 27. Mars is favourably situated for observation during the greater part of the night; its angular diameter will be 18" and the stellar magnitude —1.5 nearly equalling Sirius in brightness. The planet will be stationary on June 28. Jupiter and Saturn will also be interesting objects and can be well observed late in the night; the former rises at about 9 p.m. in the middle of the month and the latter about midnight reaching the meridian early in the morning.

3. **The Milky Way.**—Many of the rich fields of the galaxy will be in a favourable position for observation, about midnight in the month of June. The star clouds in

Sagittarius and the dark patches and lanes in the region of Ophiuchus form interesting objects for study. The globular cluster Messier 13 in the constellation Hercules is just visible to naked eye and can be observed with advantage even with instruments of moderate power.

4. **Comet Notes.**—Information has been received of the discovery on February 27 of a comet by A. Wilk at Cracow (Poland) and independently on the same day by L. C. Peltier in America. The comet was at the time near maximum brightness and has since been fading rapidly. Comet 1937 *b* (Whipple) has been well observed and its brightness is slowly increasing; it should be visible by instruments of small aperture.

On the 9th May, it was a fairly easy object of magnitude between 8 and 9 in the constellation Ursa Major.

5. **A White Dwarf Star.**—In Pulkowa Observatory *Circular* No. 19 A. N. Deutsch draws attention to the peculiarities of the Star B.D. $+59^{\circ}27'23''$. Its position is given by R.A. $23^h 22.0^m$, Declination $60^{\circ} 50' N.$ and its spectral type is F2. It has a proper motion of about half a second of arc annually, and a parallax of 0.019 is given in Schlesinger's new *Catalogue*. The absolute magnitude computed from these values is $+7$, the luminosity thus being about $1/7$ that of the sun.

T. P. B.

Indian Science Abstracts.

THE National Institute of Sciences of India, Calcutta, resolved to issue a publication under the title "INDIAN SCIENCE ABSTRACTS" with the sub-title "*being an annotated bibliography of Science in India*". The first part of the publication appeared in July 1936, and the general editor realising the impossibility of making such a publication complete without the active co-operation of all scientific workers in the country, requested them to look through it and see whether all their scientific publications issued during the year 1935 had been included in it (see *Curr. Sci.*, 1936, 5, 16). The second part which has just been issued is complimentary to the earlier part, and the two together constitute a complete record of all the publications issued during 1935 in India, as also of papers published abroad on work done in India or based on Indian material.

The matter is arranged under nine sections:—I. General, II. Mathematics

(including Mathematics, Astronomy and Geodesy), III. Physics (including Physics and Meteorology), IV. Chemistry (including Pure and Applied Chemistry), VI. Geology (including Geology, Palæontology, Mineralogy and Geography), VII. Botany (including Pure and Applied Botany, Forestry and Agronomy), VIII. Zoology (including Pure and Applied Zoology, Veterinary Zoology and Anthropology including Technology), IX. Physiology (including Animal Physiology, Veterinary Pathology and Bacteriology and Medical subjects). The publication represents an ably edited document of nearly 200 pages. All those interested in the scientific progress of the country will be greatly indebted to the general editor for his painstaking efforts in bringing out a volume which will portray to the world of international science the contributions made by the scientific workers in India.