

On Sunday a special memorial service was held at St. Giles' Cathedral, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Dr. Fisher, of St. Cuthbert's, the church in which Napier worshipped and in the churchyard of which he is buried. Dr. Fisher spoke of Napier as a citizen and as a writer on questions of theology. The service was attended by a large number of those present at the celebration.

Mention should be made of the exhibit of Napieriana and of tables and calculating machines. Early editions of works on logarithms, Napier portraits, Napier rods ("bones"), and the priceless Dantzig copy of Bürgi's Progress Tabulen were displayed in cases. All the leading types of calculating machines, models of solids and surfaces, linkages, tide predicting machinery, and other material relating to computation and to those parts of geometry in which Napier had an interest, attracted much attention.

The celebration was followed by a colloquium held under the auspices of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society. Lectures were given by Professors d'Ocagne and Whittaker, and by Messrs. E. Cunningham and H. W. Richmond.

The papers will appear in a volume under the editorship of Dr. C. G. Knott. A description of the exhibit appeared in dignified book form under the direction of Mr. E. M. Horsburgh, and a copy was presented to each participant in the celebration.

Those who attended the celebration were unanimous in their expression of pleasure at the success of the meetings and at the hospitality shown by the citizens of Edinburgh, the Royal Society, the Mathematical Society, and the University.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH.

AN APPEAL TO PRODUCING MATHEMATICIANS.

BY GEORGE PAASWELL, C.E.

A PERUSAL of modern mathematical treatises and dissertations for degrees makes the lay mathematician (I should say rather the amateur mathematician) despair of ever keeping up with the modern trend of mathematical thought. The tone of modern works is not that of disseminating new ideas, but rather that of clothing ideas already familiar to readers in