

After 32 minutes, current = 2·2 Ampères.

EMF = 0·7 Volt.

After 52 minutes, current = 1·3 Ampères.

Work expended in circuit = 3560 ft. lbs.

2nd cell. Surface 7 sq. in.

After first minute, current = 0·4 Ampères.

After 30 minutes, current = 2·5 Ampères.

Work expended in circuit = 2880 ft. lbs.

Monday, 5th June 1882.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD MONCREIFF, President,
in the Chair.

The President read Obituary Notices of Mr. David Smith, Dr. William Lauder Lindsay, and Professor Benjamin Peirce, deceased Fellows of the Society.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

DAVID SMITH. By Mr. David Maclagan.

MR. DAVID SMITH was born 13th January 1803, and died 16th December 1880, in his 78th year. He was educated at the High School and University of Edinburgh, his native city.

Having resolved to adopt law as his profession, he joined the body of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet in 1826, and at a comparatively early period of his life acquired an outstanding position as a man of business. Large and important interests were committed to the charge of his partner, Mr. James Kinnear, and himself, involving increasingly from year to year much laborious care and watchfulness.

In the year 1858 he was offered, as affording by its more defined and systematic duties, some measure of relief from an overtasked life, the vacant appointment of principal officer of the North British Insurance Company; his wide general experience having included a practical acquaintance with the principles and manage-

ment of life assurance companies. He threw himself with characteristic energy into this new sphere of labour, and, under his guidance, the company, which had always held a high place among similar institutions, rose with rapid strides to a position of pre-eminence.

The labours of a crowded business life of half a century at last began to tell upon his health; and in the year 1880 he resigned his office, and retired from active business, receiving from a very wide circle in our city expressions of sympathy, respect, and gratitude.

While immersed, as might have been supposed, in purely professional work, Mr. Smith took an active and effective part in connection with a vast variety of matters affecting, in different relations, the interests of Edinburgh, and indeed of Scotland.

As a Justice of Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant of the city of Edinburgh, he identified himself with every movement fitted to further its prosperity and good government.

Educational questions had always a special place in his regard; and any movement designed to promote the advancement of the University, in the way of enlarged endowments or of extension of its range of teaching, received his steady support.

Philanthropic and benevolent institutions—notably the Royal Infirmary—secured much valuable service at his hands, while at the same time he was busy with ecclesiastical affairs in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, of which he was an office-bearer, and in the interests of which he was a much valued counsellor and an unwearied worker.

Our own Royal Society derived no small advantage from his tenure of the office of Treasurer during a long series of years.

In a variety of qualities, not always, and indeed not often found in combination, we have the secret of his power of discharging, with a large measure of effective success, the many and diversified duties which seemed to fall to him with a certain naturalness and propriety.

It was impossible not to be struck by the keen insight and rapidity of decision which characterised his examination of any subject brought before him. The matter being disposed of, it was dismissed and forgotten, and some new and quite different question or interest followed a like course with equal despatch and deter-

mination. That there were disadvantages attending this habit of mind is undoubtedly true; but, in the main, it enabled him to overtake an amount and range of work quite remarkable in its extent and variety.

His administrative talent was conspicuous; and in work which brought him in contact with large numbers of persons of diverging views and opinions, his genial presence and firm attitude often secured united action, and moderated with singular success in divided counsels.

His courtesy of manner, kindness of heart, and obviously earnest desire to be helpful, attracted towards him the confidence and affection of a wide circle of attached friends.

Broadly viewed, few more useful lives have been spent in the community of which he was a member, and still fewer have commanded for themselves so much influence and regard as to leave, as he has done, a vacant space in society, which it is not probable we shall soon or easily see adequately filled.

WILLIAM LAUDER LINDSAY. By Dr. W. C. M'Intosh, F.R.S.

Dr. WILLIAM LAUDER LINDSAY was born at Edinburgh on the 19th December 1829, and received his education at the High School. He had naturally strong tastes towards botany and geology, and had collected plants even before entering the University as a student of medicine in 1847. During his medical curriculum his botanical tendencies received a great impetus, as he himself records, from Professor Balfour, in whose classes for two summers he carried off high honours. Some of his beautiful dissections of grasses are still justly admired in the Museum in the Botanic Garden. After a career in which he distinguished himself as a zealous and industrious student, he graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1852, his thesis being on the "Structure and Physiology of the Lichens." This essay and its illustrative preparations received the high commendation of the Medical Faculty. He soon after competed for the Conservatorship of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, but the late Professor Sanders obtained the post. He then became Resident Physician in the Cholera Hospital, Surgeon's Square, under the amiable and accomplished Dr. Warburton Begbie,