

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1900.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL
SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
SCIENCE.

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It is fitting that before entering upon the business of the Section we should pause to take note of the losses which our department of science has recently sustained. The fame of Bertrand, apart from his official position as Secretary of the French Academy of Sciences, was long ago universally established by his classical treatise on the 'Infinitesimal Calculus': it has been of late years sustained by the luminous exposition and searching criticism of his books on the 'Theory of Probability' and 'Thermodynamics' and 'Electricity.' The debt which we owe to that other veteran, G. Wiedemann, both on account of his own researches, which take us back to the modern revival of experimental physics, and for his great and indispensable thesaurus of the science of electricity, cannot easily be overstated. By the death of Sophus Lie, following soon after his return to a chair in his native country Norway, we have lost one of the great constructive mathematicians of the century, who has in various directions fundamentally expanded the methods and conceptions of analysis by reverting to the fountain of direct geometrical intuition. In Italy the death of Beltrami has removed

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