

2nd October 1820, Ampere presented to the French Academy of Sciences a paper in which he showed that not only is there a mechanical force between an electric current and a magnet but that there is a mechanical force between two neighbouring electric circuits. This brilliant paper was followed by quite a number of others, in which various details were worked out.

CLARK MAXWELL'S ESTIMATE.

In the words of Clark Maxwell, the whole theory and experiment seems as if it had leaped full grown and full armed, from the brain of the "Newton of electricity". It is perfect in form, and unassailable in accuracy, and it is summed up in a formula from which all the phenomena may be deduced and which must always remain the cardinal formula of electro-dynamics. Ampere's memoirs are a splendid example

of scientific style in the statement of a discovery.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Ampere died at Marseilles in June 1836. He was a man of great simplicity of character. He took no part in the cabals and jealousies which too frequently disturb the peace of the world of science. He was universally respected and beloved for his great integrity and the kindness of his affections. He retained a childlike disposition up to his old age. He was often tortured by doubts in small matters as well as great ones, so that life, in spite of all the recognition that it brought him, was by no means always satisfactory, a fact expressed in the epitaph chosen by himself *tandim felix, i.e., Happy At Last.*

S. R. RANGANATHAN.

Award for Scientific Manuscript.

A CASH award of \$1,000 is offered by the Williams & Wilkins Co., Mt. Royal and Guilford Aves., Baltimore, Md., for the best manuscript on a science subject, presented before July 1, 1937. The publishers put no limitations on the subject-matter or manner of handling, and none on eligibility for the award. The manuscript must be in English and "of a sort calculated to appeal to the taste of the public at large". The desired length is given as 100,000 words.

While any manuscript on a science subject will be considered, it is expected that the author will prove to be a man or woman engaged in a scientific pursuit and who is possessed of the requisite literary skill to interpret science for that portion of the public which reads books.

To assure authority, the publishers have enlisted the services of some 25 or 30 advisers—men of science of wide reputation and assured

competence. One or more of these advisers will pass upon each manuscript from the viewpoint of soundness and accuracy. The award will lie in the joint discretion of four judges selected with a view to their especial qualification in choosing the sort of book that will appeal. These are: Joseph Wheeler, Librarian of the Pratt Library in Baltimore, and Chairman of the Book List Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Science; Harry Hansen, Reviewer and Critic for the *New York World-Telegram* and *Harpers Magazine*; Lyman Bryson, Professor of Education of Teachers College, Columbia University, and Director of the "Readability Laboratory"; and David Dietz, Science Editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers.

Further details concerning the award may be had by addressing the publishers. (News Edition, *Ind. Eng. Chem.*, 1936, 28, 195.)
