

m in magnitude, and it will be found that according to theory Deimos is just within the range of a perfect objective of 8 in. aperture, under the most favourable conditions for observing.

The brilliant Jupiter will now claim most of the observer's attention as he gradually approaches opposition, rising at sunset and attaining a good altitude for observation. The perihelion was passed in July and the disk now has an angular diameter of 46", more than twice that of Mars. The retrograde motion of Jupiter is quite noticeable, there being many small stars in his neighbourhood, and the relative position from night to night may be easily observed in even a small telescope. The evening of Sept. 15th and early morning of 16th will afford most excellent opportunities to observers who wish to note the phenomena presented by the giant planet's satellites. The transits of I. and II. and their shadows will be all visible in Ontario. On Oct. 8th also the transits, etc., of I. II. and III. may be all observed here.

The interest taken in astronomy at the present day is in some measure the result of the numerous press

notices which appear when anything of particular note is heralded from the great centres of the science. But it is much to be regretted that in some cases articles which are in part of great value, are spoiled by some fanciful ideas regarding the inhabitability of the planets, etc.

The impression is given that the power of the great telescopes of the age is a thousand times greater than it really is, and the fact entirely lost sight of that there is a limit to the effectiveness of these instruments. While it is unwise to say that some particular secret of the universe can *never* be discovered, there is, on the other hand, no credit due to the writer who, making a wild guess, declares that such and such a secret will be known a hundred years hence, without giving some definite idea of the lines along which the discovery may be made. And further, amateurs are liable to be carried away, as it were, by the mysteries of astronomy, and neglect to give some little time to the study of what is known as "exact astronomy," based upon the simplest laws of number and extension, and reached along the line of straightforward reasoning.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SIR DANIEL WILSON.

THE late President of the University of Toronto was born in Edinburgh, Jan. 5, 1816, and was an elder brother of the eminent physicist, Prof. George Wilson, of whom he was wont to speak with great affection and pride. In 1841 he published "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," and in 1851 appeared his greatest work, "The Archæology and Prehistoric Annals of Scotland" in two volumes with

about 200 illustrations drawn by himself. He was appointed Professor of History and English Literature in the Toronto University in 1853, and in 1881 succeeded the Rev. Dr. McCaul in its Presidency.

Besides the works above mentioned Dr. Wilson published several other works, such as "Cromwell and the Protectorate," "Prehistoric Man," "Caliban," "Chatterton," and a book of verse, "Spring Wild Flowers," and many articles in encyclopædias, reviews, magazines, etc., all of which