

rate of doing work when a current of one ampere passes through a resistance of one ohm; and (2) the *joule*, which is the amount of work done, or its equivalent the amount of heat generated, when these conditions are maintained for one second. These two units will probably be brought into immediate use, as they are greatly wanted in electrical engineering. One horse power is equal to 746 watts.

Mr. G. H. Darwin, son of the late eminent naturalist, made some important communications, one of them being in reference to his observations originally undertaken to detect the disturbance of gravity produced by the moon's different attraction in different positions, but lately continued for the sake of the information which they give respecting minute tremors of the earth. They show a chronic state of earthquake in what we have been accustomed to regard as *terra firma*.

Sir W. Thompson, as usual, was the leading spirit in the Section, throwing important light upon nearly every question that was discussed, besides contributing several papers of his own.

The Economic Section, which on some previous occasions has been accused of admitting papers of too light and popular a cast, has now recovered its character, and the titles of its communications at this meeting breathe the spirit of as severe science as the most rigorous political economist could desire. Prof. Leone Levi's statistics of crime in the three divisions of the United Kingdom were especially important.

The event of the meeting has been the decision arrived at by the General Committee to hold the next meeting but one in Canada. This is a new departure, but, as the General Secretary pointed out, it is quite within the scope of the Association's work as defined in the printed constitution. Strong opinions were expressed against the proposal, as virtually excluding from the meeting a large proportion of the most devoted members and hardest workers of the Association; but its supporters were enthusiastic, and though defeated by a small majority in the voting for next year's meeting, which is to be at Southport, they finally carried their point as regards the 1884 meeting, by fifty-three votes against thirty-nine. Great inducements were offered in the shape of facilities for travelling; and the rare chance thus afforded of seeing America was doubtless a powerful attraction, especially to