

ALBERT MARTH.—Astronomy has sustained a severe loss in the death of Albert Marth on the 5th of August last.

He was born in 1828, at Colberg, in North Prussia, and was for some time a student in the Universities of Berlin and Königsberg, studying astronomy in the latter town under Prof. Peters. Whilst there he commenced computing the orbits of planets and comets, his first paper (published in the "Astronomische Nachrichten") being an Ephemeris and Elements of the comet discovered by Westphal. In 1853 he came to London, and was for two years assistant at Mr. Bishop's Observatory in Regent's Park, where he discovered the minor planet (29) *Amphitrite*. In 1855 he was appointed observer at the Durham University Observatory, where, however, he chiefly employed himself in calculations. In 1863 he went to Malta as assistant to Mr. Lassell, observed with the 4-foot reflector, and published a catalogue of 600 new nebulae, the positions of which he determined with great accuracy. This was published by Mr. Lassell in "Memoirs," Royal Astronomical Society, Vol. XXXVI., but, as Mr. Lassell states, it was entirely Mr. Marth's work. In 1868, after the erection of the great 25-in. Cooke refractor, at Mr. Newall's Observatory, Mr. Marth went to Gateshead as Mr. Newall's assistant. Leaving Gateshead a few years later, Mr. Marth lived in London till 1883, when he proceeded to Markree, co. Sligo, to take charge of Col. Cooper's Observatory, an appointment which he held till his death, which took place somewhat unexpectedly at Heidelberg, as he was setting out for his journey home after a visit to his relatives in Germany.

It is impossible to enumerate the many papers which he communicated, principally to the "Astronomische Nachrichten" and the "Monthly Notices" of the Royal Astronomical Society. In 1860 he published an important "Memoir" on the polar distances of the Greenwich Transit Circle, and in 1882 he was engaged in a controversy with M. Loewy with regard to the determination of flexure in transit instruments. But the work by which he is best known to Members of the Association was the long series of Ephemerides for the observation of planets and satellites, &c., principally published in the "Monthly Notices," and for this laborious but most useful work deserves the gratitude of all observers.

Mr. Marth never married, and lived a retired life, but when in London was always a well-known figure at the Meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society. After his appointment to Markree he paid an annual visit to London, and was usually present at the June Meetings of the Association. His great knowledge and the singular accuracy of his memory made him always welcome, though he retained a strong German accent to the end of his life, notwithstanding that it had been mainly spent in this country. Simple and frugal in his manner of life, endowed with great earnestness of character, and an almost morbid conscientiousness

of disposition, he inspired the respect of all who really knew him. It has always been a matter for regret that he never appeared to occupy the position for which his powers of mind seemed so eminently to fit him.