

accidental. No, I submit; the connection is that laws of limit are apt to be simple, and simplicity is apt to be convenient. May we push the inquiry one step further, and explain the connection between the mathematical simplicity of nature, and human convenience as a result of evolution?

IV.—*Record of Family Faculties.*

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Society held on the 15th January, the Chairman, Sir Rawson W. Rawson, K.C.M.G., C.B., read the following letter from Mr. Francis Galton:—

“ Sir,—I beg to present herewith to the Statistical Society a copy of my ‘Record of Family Faculties.’ It will be observed that I offer prizes to the amount of 500*l.* to those who shall furnish me with the best *extracts* from their own family records, as described in the book and in the fly-leaf prefixed to it, and for the statistical purposes there named.

“ I should be greatly obliged if the Council of the Statistical Society saw their way to aid this attempt, by giving publicity to it and their implied approval.

“ Yours faithfully,
“ FRANCIS GALTON.

“ *The Secretary of the Statistical Society.*”

He said there could be no doubt that the object was a most interesting one, and the results might prove very valuable. The Council was most desirous of forwarding Mr. Galton's object, and proposed to notice it in the next number of the *Journal*. It hoped that the attention which his communication would receive from the members might lead to an important increase of knowledge with regard to anthropometry, and the physical conditions of English society.

V.—*The Fires in London during the Year 1883, and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.*

THE following particulars are taken from Captain Shaw's Report for 1883, to the Metropolitan Board of Works, in continuation of similar notices for previous years:—

“ The number of calls for fires, or supposed fires, received during the year has been 2,630. Of these 337 were false alarms, 149 proved to be only chimney alarms, and 2,144 were calls for fires, of which 184 resulted in serious damage, and 1,960 in slight damage.

“ These figures refer only to the regular calls for fires, or supposed fires, involving the turning out of firemen, fire engines, fire escapes, horses, and coachmen; they do not include trifling damages by fires which were not sufficiently important to require the attendance of firemen; neither do they include the ordinary calls for chimneys on fire, which are separately accounted for further on.