

The writer may take this opportunity of mentioning a result which lately occurred to him, respecting two *arbitrary*, but *reciprocal* conical surfaces, of which each is the locus of all the normals to the others, erected at their common vertex ; namely, that two such cones have always one common conical surface of centres of curvature.

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The President read the following Address :

GENTLEMEN,—We have this night reached the close of a Session of more than usual activity ; and I might, therefore, naturally have desired—before leaving this Chair and adjourning the Academy to another winter—to trespass for a short time upon your attention, and to lay before you a brief summary of the results of our toil. On the present occasion, however, my duty is narrowed and defined ; and the recent award of the Cunningham Medals by the Council renders it imperative on me to submit to the Academy the grounds of their decision. In doing this, it will be necessary for me to present a brief analysis of the results of those labours whose value your Council have thus honourably recognised ; and in the execution of this task I must request the indulgence of the Academy, and still more that of the gentlemen of whose discoveries I am to speak, if, in my imperfect acquaintance with them, I should fail to do justice to their merits.

You are aware that, during the past Session, the laws respecting the award of medals have occupied the attention of the Council ; and that certain new regulations relating to it were, upon their suggestion, adopted by the Academy. It is unnecessary for me to recapitulate these regulations, or to state the grounds for the changes therein made, as this has been already fully done by the Council, in their last Annual Report. It will be sufficient for me, on the present occasion, to remind you, that the principal alteration in the rules respecting the award of medals under the Cunningham bequest, has been to extend the limit within which the Council are enabled to bestow such rewards, and to confine them only to Memoirs or Works printed and published in Ireland, or relating to Irish subjects.

A considerable interval having elapsed since the last award of