

constant property we once thought it. It is a function of velocity for one thing, and when speeds become excessive the inertia of matter rises perceptibly in value. The fact that it would rise in value by a calculable amount, and that the rise would be perceptible when the speed of motion approached in value to within, say, a tenth of the velocity of light, was predicted mathematically ;¹ and now, strange to say, it has recently become possible to observe and actually measure the increase of inertia experimentally, and thus to confirm the electrical theory not only as qualitatively or approximately true, but as completely and quantitatively accurate. A remarkable achievement all this ! of quite modern times, which has not excited the attention it deserves—save among physicists.

But even this is not all that can be said as to the fluctuating character of that fundamental material quality “inertia.” It appears possible, if electrons approach too near

¹ By Mr Oliver Heaviside and Professor J. J. Thomson.