

*THE D. O. MILLS ASTRONOMICAL
EXPEDITION.*

THE D. O. Mills Astronomical Expedition from the Lick Observatory, University of California, sailed from San Francisco on February 28, to Valparaiso, Chili. The purpose of the expedition is to measure spectroscopically the line-of-sight velocities of the naked-eye stars in the Southern Hemisphere which are not visible at Mt. Hamilton. The observing station will be in the vicinity of Santiago, either on one of the low hills in the suburbs of the city, or along the line of the railway running from Santiago to Valparaiso. The apparatus consists principally of a 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch reflecting telescope, Cassegrain form, to which is attached a powerful three-prism spectrograph. The instruments will be covered with a modern 30-foot steel dome. The expedition is in charge of Acting Astronomer William H. Wright, and he will be assisted by Mr. H. K. Palmer. Professor Wright has been a member of the Lick Observatory staff for the past six years, engaged in line-of-sight determinations with the Mills Spectrograph attached to the 36-inch equatorial. Mr. Palmer was for four years a fellow in the Lick Observatory. The government of Chili has taken note of the coming of the expedition, by admitting all the effects duty free, and by volunteering to further the purposes of the expedition in every possible way.

*AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION EX-
CURSION TO CALIFORNIA.*

THE American Ornithologists' Union at its last session appointed a committee to consider the question of a spring meeting in California. The committee announces that it finds that the railroads are not only willing to grant very favorable rates, but that most satisfactory arrangements may be made with respect to stop-over privileges. In order that those who go may see as much as possible it is planned to make various stops in New Mexico, Arizona and southern California, including one at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. It is planned to charter special Pullman cars for the outward journey so that the party may travel comfortably and as a unit, and to spend

about ten days between Chicago and San Francisco. The plan is to leave Chicago May 3, to reach San Francisco on or about May 13, and to hold the special meeting May 15-16 in conjunction with the California members of the American Ornithologists' Union and the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club. The cost of the round trip is a single fare from the starting point to Chicago plus \$50, and the tickets are good to July 15. Members of the union may invite friends interested in science to take part in the excursion. The committee consists of C. Hart Merriam, chairman; T. S. Palmer, and John H. Sage, secretary of the union, to whom communications should be addressed at Portland, Conn.

*MINUTE IN REFERENCE TO THE DEATH OF
PROFESSOR WILLIAM HARKNESS, U.S.N.*

At a meeting of the staff of the Naval Observatory and Nautical Almanac Office, held March 2, 1903, Captain C. M. Chester, Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, read the sad announcement of the death of Professor William Harkness, U.S.N., at Jersey City, N. J., at 3:37 p.m., February 28, 1903. Through a committee appointed at this meeting, the staff of the Naval Observatory and Nautical Almanac Office expresses its deep regret at the death of their colleague, and extends its heartfelt sympathy to his relatives in their bereavement.

Throughout all his connection with the Observatory, for 37 years previous to his retirement in 1899, a conscientious faithfulness even to the minutest details characterized the performance of all his duties. This adherence to duty was so rigidly carried out by him that he rarely gave himself the occasional relaxation so necessary to the recuperation of wearied energies, which might have added years of usefulness to his life.

The fruits of his laborious life as aid, professor of mathematics, U. S. Navy astronomical director of the observatory and director of the Nautical Almanac Office, are shown by voluminous scientific papers, whose publication has not been limited to the volumes