

*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

issued by the Observatory and the Nautical Almanac Office.

A large part of his energies was devoted through many years to service as a member of the Transit of Venus Commission.

During the past year it has been a special cause of regret to him that feebleness of body should compel him to forego participation in scientific work; meanwhile continually hoping soon to recover strength sufficiently to permit his return to Washington to complete various pieces of scientific work.

His energy and faithfulness should be emulated by all. His example should spur us on to greater faithfulness, activity and zeal in carrying on labors commenced by him and providentially committed to us to continue.

By unanimous vote it was resolved that the superintendent of the Naval Observatory be requested to place the above tribute to the memory of the late Professor William Harkness on the records of the Observatory, and to transmit a copy to the members of his family.

The foregoing minute having been read Mr. Thomas Harrison, the oldest associate of Professor Harkness at the observatory, made the following remarks, which by unanimous vote were appended to the minutes:

On this sad occasion, Mr. Chairman, I can not forbear to say a word, though it be only to regret my inability adequately to express the regard I have for many years entertained for the man whose memory we have met to honor.

It would be unbecoming in me to speak of his great and valuable labors at the Naval Observatory, the results of which have done so much to sustain the high reputation in this country and abroad that is now enjoyed by the Institution with which his name has been so long associated. These labors fall appropriately under the notice of those present who were his collaborators in the same field, and who can more readily than myself comprehend their magnitude and their value. But a personal reference may be allowed.

Professor Harkness came to the Observatory during the stirring events of 1862, when in the vigor of early manhood. He was as-

signed at once to the rank among scientists due to his varied attainments; and his life work then auspiciously begun, continued, ever widening in scope and influence, to the day of his death, which has just been announced.

The fact that I was permitted to enjoy his friendship will always be classed with the happy circumstances of my official life—a friendship which began 41 years ago, and continued to the moment he was stricken by the hand of death.

The often-quoted lines of Horace on the 'Just Man,' may well be applied to William Harkness.

March 2, 1903.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A NOBEL Prize Committee has been organized in Great Britain with Lord Avebury as chairman.

MR. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM has resigned the directorship of the census.

M. LÉON LABBÉ, the surgeon and anatomist, has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

THE University of Glasgow will on April 21 confer the degree of LL.D. on Sir William Tennant Gairdner, emeritus professor of medicine in the University of Glasgow; Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., director of the Solar Physics Observatory, South Kensington; Dr. Thomas Oliver, professor of physiology in the University of Durham and Mr. Philip Watts, F.R.S., director of naval construction, Admiralty, London.

THE University of Edinburgh will confer the LL.D. degree on Dr. Arthur Gambee, emeritus professor of physiology, Owen's College, Manchester; on Sir Norman M'Laurin, M.D., chancellor of the University of Sydney, and on Mr. Benjamin Peach, of the Scottish Geological Survey.

DR. WILLIAM R. BROOKS, director of Smith Observatory and professor of astronomy in Hobart College, has been awarded the Comet medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for the discovery of his twenty-third