

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1903.

ROBERT HENRY THURSTON.

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MSs. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

ON October 25, 1903, Robert H. Thurston, director of the Sibley College of Cornell University and one of the editors of this JOURNAL, was stricken down with heart failure while awaiting in his library the coming of a few friends who had been invited to a dinner celebrating his sixty-fourth birthday. The news of his sudden death came as a great shock to the engineering profession throughout the United States, while to Cornell University the loss is one that seems irreparable for several years to come.

Robert H. Thurston was born in Providence, R. I., and was graduated from the engineering course of Brown University in 1859 with the degree of C.E. In 1861 he became an assistant engineer in the navy and served throughout the civil war, finally being promoted to the position of chief engineer of one of the monitors. In 1865 he was appointed an instructor in the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, leaving that position in 1871 to accept the professorship of mechanical engineering in the Stevens Institute of Technology. This chair he held until 1885 when he was called to the directorship of the Sibley College of Mechanic Arts, a position which he filled until the day of his death.

The work of Professor Thurston at Stevens Institute and at Cornell University was most successful, it being characterized by great energy and executive ability,