

engaged in a study of the bacteriology of influenza he was stricken and died with pneumonia in a few days.

Captain Mathers was a fine, lofty-minded, lovable young man, of rare enthusiasm for work, and a remarkable efficiency. He had committed himself to research and his early death is a great loss to medicine.

LUDVIG HEKTOEN

### ARTEMAS MARTIN

DR. ARTEMAS MARTIN, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, died on November 7, 1918, after an illness of two weeks, in the eight-fourth year of his life. He was born on a farm in Steuben County, New York, on August 3, 1835. Four winters in the schools of Venango County, Pennsylvania, comprised all his schooling. Wood-chopping, oil-well drilling and farming—with four winters as a district teacher—made up his work until the age of fifty. The little leisure afforded by such work was devoted to the study of mathematics.

Early in life he began contributing problems and solutions to various magazines. In 1877, while engaged in market gardening for a livelihood, he began the editing and publishing of the *Mathematical Visitor* and in 1882 he followed this up with the *Mathematical Magazine*. Not only did he do the editing and publishing of these magazines, but for financial reasons was compelled to do the type setting also. That he did this well is evidenced by the character of the mathematical typography of his journals.

Aside from articles in his own magazines, he contributed a large number of papers to various mathematical journals here and abroad. His writings dealt chiefly with properties of triangles, logarithms, properties of numbers, diophantine analysis, probability and elliptic integrals. He was an authority on early mathematical text-books and collaborated with Dr. Greenwood in the "Notes on the History of American Text-Books on Arithmetic."

Dr. Martin's mathematical abilities received

wide recognition. In 1877, Yale conferred upon him the honorary degree of A.M., Rutgers honored him with a Ph.D., in 1882, and in 1885 Hillsdale made him an LL.D. Numerous learned societies, both here and abroad, honored him with membership.

In 1885, Dr. Martin was appointed librarian of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, where his wide knowledge of mathematics made him of great service. In 1898 he was made computer in the Division of Tides, which place he held until his death.

Personally, he was a man of very prepossessing appearance. Of simple tastes and exhibiting few of the limitations of the pioneer period through which he passed the first fifty years of his life, he exemplified most of its robust virtues. Fond of home life and children he denied himself marriage that he might care for his parents and sisters. Traveling scarcely at all, he was well known to American mathematicians of the previous generation who found him an agreeable and companionable man.

Dr. Martin's memory is to be fittingly perpetuated in the Artemas Martin Library of the American University at Washington, D. C. This library, consisting principally of mathematical works, and given by Dr. Martin to the American University shortly before his death, was considered one of the finest private collections in America. At the same university there is also to be an Artemas Martin Lectureship in mathematics and physics, endowed by Dr. Martin.

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE BEQUESTS OF MRS. SAGE

THE will of Mrs. Margaret Olivia Sage, disposes of an estate estimated at \$50,000,000, of which more than \$40,000,000 is to be distributed among charitable, educational and religious institutions. It is said that since the death of her husband, Mrs. Sage had given between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000 to various institutions and charities, using part of the principal, as well as the income, of the Sage estate in these benefactions.