And then in the evening we assembled around his study table, either in the Allegheny Observatory, or in his own home, and went over the treasures of the day.

First of all, we were made to draw with scrupulous care the various objects, in order that we might see what was really there. Then there was a great hunting through the library for articles and descriptions. Professor Very superintended this research and illumined what we found with the light of his almost omniscient knowledge. It has never been my privilege to know a man more learned than he in so many different departments of science.

The writer is sure that throughout this broad land, there are thousands who have come under the gracious, kindly influence of Professor Very, and who will endorse these words of tribute to a great teacher.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXPEDITION TO COMBAT SLEEPING SICKNESS IN FRENCH AFRICA

THE organization of a government expedition to fight sleeping sickness in French equatorial Africa is reported by the New York *Herald*. Thirty-three French physicians and scientific men, under the auspices of the Pasteur Institute, will devote five years to combatting the disease and attempting to rid the colonies of the fatal tsetse fly.

Accompanying the decree authorizing the expedition was a letter from Leon Perrier, minister of colonies, to President Doumergue, stating that the present conditions in Africa made necessary special efforts to stamp out sleeping sickness above all other diseases.

The minister said sanitary conditions had become worse, due to the concentration of native labor in connection with railroad building. He suggested that, owing to the hazardous nature of the task and the length of service necessary, special awards be offered to those who volunteer. This was provided in the decree issued by the president. M. Perrier said he had suggested the expedition after consultation with the Pasteur Institute and that the director of the institute's branch at Brazaville had named a technical adviser for the expedition. Enlistment in the expedition is open to both army and civilian scientific men.

The decree signed by President Doumergue fixes the size of the party at ten physicians, ten hygienists, one veterinarian and twelve hospital attendants, all Europeans, and 105 natives. While the salaries are not unusually high—28,000 francs a year for the physicians and 18,000 and 13,000 for the other classes—they are offered many immunities from taxation and allowances for their families.

In addition they will be given a bonus of 10,000 francs after two years' service, 30,000 after four years and 60,000 if they enlist for an additional two years' service. The last clause implies that the government intends to keep the expedition in operation longer than the original five years mentioned in the decree.

The volunteers must pass three months in study at the Pasteur Institute in Paris or at the branch at Brazaville. They must enlist for two years' continuous service, followed by a vacation of six months, and then for another two years without interruption.

CASTING OF A LARGE DISK OF OPTICAL GLASS BY THE U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS

THE *Technical Bulletin* of the U. S. Bureau of Standards gives an account of the casting of a large disk of optical glass for Ohio Wesleyan University. On January 21 the mold containing the disk of optical glass, cast on May 7, 1927, was opened and the glass found to be very good. It appears to be quite uniform throughout, and although it contains some seeds and striae, they will not affect its value as a telescope mirror.

The cover was removed in the presence of several distinguished scientists, including Dr. S. W. Stratton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; W. R. Warner, of the firm of Warner and Swasey, telescope makers, and Dr. George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards.

The disk, which is about 70 inches in diameter, 11 inches thick and weighs 3,500 pounds, will be used as a great concave mirror for the new reflecting telescope of the Perkins Observatory at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.

The money with which to establish this observatory was left to the university by Professor Hiram Mills Perkins, of Ohio Wesleyan, who during 50 years of hard work through most rigid economy and sound investment had been able to amass a small fortune, nearly a quarter of a million dollars. It was his desire to establish an observatory of the first rank at the university and that the entire equipment be of American manufacture. The mounting of the telescope was constructed by the American telescope makers, Warner and Swasey, of Cleveland, Ohio, but difficulty was experienced in getting any bids on the mirror from American glass manufacturers. In particular, no one was willing to state, even approximately, when the disk could be completed. Finally, the director of the observatory, Dr. Clifford C. Crump, called upon the Department of Commerce for assistance. Although the Bureau of Standards has been