

In public life Vasiliev was an active member of the left wing of the liberal party; he was elected to the Russian Duma and later was elected by the Academic Union to the State Council.

In such a brief note it is impossible to do justice to the grandeur of such a fruitful life. The present writer will always remember with admiration the interest the late Vasiliev displayed in the application of scientific methods to the affairs of man.

In his scientific works, in the influence which resulted from his broad social consciousness and in the memories of those who were fortunate enough to have been associated with him, he has built for himself a lasting memorial.¹

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RECENT DEATHS

DR. EDWARD DRAKE ROE, JR., for twenty-nine years professor of mathematics at Syracuse University, died on December 11, in his seventy-first year.

PROFESSOR FRED NEHER, of the department of chemistry at Princeton University, a member of the faculty since 1891, died on December 11. He was sixty-two years old.

PROFESSOR OLE OLFUSEN, sixty-four years old, Dan-

ish explorer, died at Copenhagen on December 13. Among his works was a book on the Yellowstone National Park.

MEMORIALS

SPECIAL memorial services to honor Dr. Victor C. Vaughan were conducted under the auspices of the University of Michigan on December 3. President Alexander G. Ruthven represented the university and Dr. Walter H. Sawyer the regents. There was a representative of the state of Michigan among the speakers also. Dr. Novy appeared for the faculty of the School of Medicine and Professor Moses Gomberg on behalf of the department of chemistry. Professor William H. Hobbs spoke as a colleague of Dr. Vaughan.

UPTON HOUSE, the Queen Anne mansion in which Joseph Lister was born in 1827, was in 1885 acquired for a vicarage for the Church of St. Peter, Upton Cross, London. In order to repair and preserve the house, an appeal is made for £1,800 by the Parochial Church Council. Checks should be drawn in favor of "Lord Lister's Birthplace Preservation Fund," and sent to the honorary treasurers of the fund at Upton House, Forest Gate, London.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ASTRONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is reported by *Science Service* that three groups of European astronomers are planning separate observatories in South Africa, in addition to the six already there. The University of Leyden, Holland, will be the next northern observatory to establish a branch south of the Equator to observe parts of the sky invisible from Europe or America. Professor W. de Sitter, director of the Leyden Observatory, has recently inspected South African sites, and decided to establish the branch on the grounds of the Union Observatory at Johannesburg.

Another southern observatory is to be established here as a joint enterprise of all the German observatories. Professor P. Guthnick, director of the Berlin University Observatory at Neubabelsberg, a suburb of Berlin, also made a recent inspection of possible sites. So far he has not decided between Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Windhoek, but it is believed that the odds are in favor of the first.

Further, it is planned to move the Radcliffe Observatory, now at Oxford, England, to South Africa. This institution, equipped with an 18-inch refracting

telescope in addition to smaller instruments, has no connection with the University of Oxford, which has its own observatory. Sir Frank Dyson, astronomer royal, and Dr. H. Knox-Shaw, in charge of the Radcliffe Observatory, recently visited possible locations. So far they have not decided between Bloemfontein and Pretoria.

The Royal Observatory at Cape Town is the oldest of the present South African observatories. Its largest telescope is a refractor with a lens 24 inches in diameter. The University of South Africa, also in this city, boasts an observatory with an 18-inch refractor.

At Johannesburg is the Union Observatory, with a 26-inch refractor. Both the University of Michigan and Yale University have established branches on the Union Observatory grounds with 27-inch and 26-inch refracting telescopes, respectively.

At Bloemfontein is the branch of the Harvard College Observatory, formerly located at Arequipa, Peru. This institution has now a 24-inch photographic refracting telescope and a reflector with a 16-inch mirror. A reflector with a 60-inch mirror is now being completed at Pittsburgh and will be installed at the Harvard Station. This will be the largest telescope south of the Equator.

¹ Part of the material in this article is taken from a biography of Professor A. V. Vasiliev by his pupil, Professor N. N. Parfentiev.