

our coast survey was his compatriot, but in any case he succeeded in gathering a considerable mass of material about a man who contributed notably to the scientific work of America. The same spirit of careful research showed itself in his study of the history of limits and fluxions in England and in the investigation of the early mathematical sciences in the New World. By far his best work, however, is his "History of Mathematical Notations," a worthy culmination of his career as a historian. While it is greatly to be regretted that he did not live to publish his edition of the "Principia," he had the satisfaction of seeing this treatise on notations appear in a worthy form and of knowing that the scientific world fully recognized its merits.

His work was not by any means limited to his published books, however. He was a prolific contributor to a large number of scientific journals such as the *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society, *SCIENCE*, the *American Mathematical Monthly*, the *American Journal of Mathematics*, *Schlömilch's Zeitschrift*, *Silliman's Journal*, *The Scientific Monthly*, *Popular Astronomy*, the *Archivio di Storia della Scienza*, Loria's *Bollettino*, *Scientia*, *Bibliotheca Mathematica*, *Isis*, *Mathematical Gazette*, *Popular Science Monthly*, *School Science and Mathematics* and the *Publications* of the University of California and those of Colorado College. During his years at the University of California he contributed no less than 140 articles and reviews, all of high rank, to these and other periodicals.

His work was duly recognized by learned societies and by various colleges and universities. He was a member of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, the Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung, the Mathematical Association (England), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, holding offices in at least two of these societies. He was honored by the degrees of Ph.D. (Tulane, 1894), LL.D. (University of California, 1912, and Colorado College, 1913) and Sc.D. (Wisconsin, 1913). As the leading historian of mathematics in this country, his loss will be deeply felt by all who have an interest in this important field of learning.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH

RECENT DEATHS

MR. MICHAEL B. RICH, president of the board of directors of Williamsport-Dickinson Seminary, Pa., was killed in an automobile accident on August 8.

FATHER JOHN GEORGE HAGEN, S.J., director of the Vatican Observatory, died in Rome on September 6 at the age of 83. He was formerly director of the astronomical observatory at Georgetown University.

WILLIAM NELSON REID, for several years metallurgist in charge of the heat treating department of the International Motor Company at Plainfield, N. J., died on September 3.

THE *Electrical World* reports the death in Milan of Professor Francesco Grassi, Italian electrical engineer, at the age of 78. Professor Grassi was one of the Italian delegates to the International Electro-technical Congress in Chicago in 1893.

Nature reports the following deaths: Dr. Henry Fraser, formerly director of the Institute for Medical Research, Federated Malay States, when he made valuable contributions to our knowledge of beri-beri, bacillary dysentery and leprosy, on July 17, aged fifty-seven years; Mrs. Albert Howard, second imperial economic botanist to the Government of India, who was associated with her husband in the work of the Institute of Plant Industry, Indore, on August 18, aged fifty-three years; His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., president of the Royal Institution and chancellor of the University of Durham, on August 23, aged fifty years; Professor Conrad von Seelhorst, professor of agriculture in the University of Göttingen, author of "Handbuch der Moorkultur," on July 6, aged seventy-seven years.

MEMORIALS

ON August 17 in the presence of the immediate family of the late Rear Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, U. S. N., and a large number of interested spectators, a boulder, bearing a bronze tablet describing the meridian line marked by Admiral Peary while a resident of Fryeburg, Maine, was unveiled with appropriate ceremony. The meridian has been used by surveyors since then, and is recognized by the United States topographical authorities for its accuracy. The principal speaker was Professor Alfred E. Burton, of Carmel, California, formerly dean of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mrs. Peary unveiled the memorial, and Robert E. Peary, 2nd, spoke of his father.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HARVARD SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

ANNOUNCEMENT was made on September 14 by officials of Harvard University of the establishment of a

school of geography under the terms of a gift from a Harvard graduate, Dr. Alexander Hamilton Rice, of Newport, R. I., who is an amateur of the geographical