Returning to America in 1891, he established an incandescent lamp factory in Massachusetts. As a result of patent difficulties, the plant was closed after about a year of operation. Deprived of practically all he possessed, he came west, spending about a year at Purdue University. In the middle nineties he located at Chicago. During the next twenty years he was associated with various firms and institutions, among them the Western Electric Company, Wm. Gaertner and Company, Armour Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago. Many physicists and chemists who obtained their degrees from Chicago will affectionately recall "the Captain," as he was always known to his associates and acquaintances. He spent eight years with Professor Michelson at Ryerson Laboratory, designing and constructing research apparatus and ruling diffraction gratings, after which he spent some years in Kent Laboratory as research mechanician. In 1916 he joined the development staff of Central Scientific Company, where he remained until 1922. Here he developed miscellaneous constant temperature devices, including ovens, water baths and thermoregulators. His contributions to design and production methods of military instruments which the company manufactured for the government during the war were numerous.

In 1922 Professor Randall, of the University of Michigan, asked the writer to suggest some one who might undertake the design and construction of a dividing engine for ruling special diffraction gratings, to be used in researches in the region of the longer wave-lengths. No one seemed better qualified than Captain de Khotinsky. Although 72 years old at that time, he was happy for the opportunity of spending the next few years in the kind of work he loved and in most congenial and pleasant surroundings. In three years the ruling machine was completed and in operation. Not the smallest part of his achievement was the method of shaping the diamond ruling points to produce grooves of predetermined shape, by means of which intense spectra in selected wave-length regions could be obtained.

In 1926 Captain de Khotinsky retired to Pentwater, to spend his declining years.

His achievements are numerous. In engineering he has to his credit many inventions and patents on incandescent lamps, storage battery plates, and automatic gun-firing devices. He devised the first switchboard signal lamp. In physics he is best known for his de Khotinsky cement and his work in the production of diffraction gratings, while chemists and bacteriologists will remember him for his laboratory devices for the maintenance of constant temperatures.

PAUL E. KLOPSTEG

RECENT DEATHS

DR. JERMAIN GILDERSLEEVE PORTER, professor of astronomy at the University of Cincinnati and director of the Cincinnati Observatory from 1884 to 1931, died on April 15 at the age of eighty-one years.

MRS. ZELIA NUTTALL, honorary special assistant at the Peabody Museum of Harvard University and honorary professor of archeology at the National Museum of Mexico, died at her home in Mexico City on April 12, in her seventy-fifth year.

THE death is announced of Dr. Ernst Grossmann, professor of astronomy at Munich.

THE Duke of the Abruzzi, who conducted explorations in Africa, India and the far north, died on March 18, aged sixty years.

JULES PICCARD, for forty years professor of chemistry at Basle, died on April 11. Dr. Piccard was the father of Dr. Auguste Piccard, professor of physics and physical measurements and director of the laboratory of physics at the University of Brussels, who is now visiting the United States.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ON April 4, the eightieth anniversary of its founding was celebrated by the California Academy of Sciences in its Simson African Hall, where a preview was arranged of the installations of habitat groups of African mammals which are now in a stage of particular interest. At this function, there was a brief address of welcome by Mr. William H. Crocker, the president of the Board of Trustees, who has held this position since 1897. Dr. C. E. Grunsky, president of the academy for over twenty-one years, referred briefly to the history of the academy as a scientific research and educational institution, whose activities since its inception have been made possible by generous contributions and endowments from private individuals, outstanding among which is that of James Lick some sixty years ago. The Lick endowment placed the academy in unrestricted ownership of downtown property in San Francisco, the improvements on which, made with borrowed money, yield most of the income which makes its activities possible.

When Mr. Leslie Simson some years ago made his offer to furnish to the academy, free of cost, specimens of African mammals which would be needed for