

ASTRONOMY in Italy has suffered three heavy losses within a few months in the deaths of Riccò, Millosevich, and Celoria. GIOVANNI CELORIA, who died in Milan on August 18, was born in Piedmont in 1842, graduated at the University of Turin in 1863, and then studied astronomy at Bonn and Berlin. On returning to Italy he was appointed by Schiaparelli an assistant at the Brera Observatory, Milan, where he remained almost all his life, becoming director in 1900, on Schiaparelli's retirement, and himself retiring in 1917. Celoria's astronomical studies were devoted mainly to the structure of the star system; he repeated some of Sir W. Herschel's work on star-gauging, though with a much smaller telescope, and inferred the comparative thinness of the star-stratum in the direction of the north galactic pole from the fact that in this region he could see as many stars as Herschel had seen. He did useful work in another direction by collecting and discussing the records of several total solar eclipses the tracks of which crossed Europe in the Middle Ages, and he was able to fix the boundaries of totality with considerable precision; his work has been utilised by Dr. Cowell and others in the discussion of the secular acceleration of the moon. Celoria was also interested in geodesy, and held for a long time the chair of that subject in the Technical College of Milan. He was elected an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1917.

WE regret to note that the death of MR. GEORGE TANGYE is announced in the *Engineer* for October 15. Mr. Tangye started business in Birmingham, with four other brothers, in 1858. The firm was a very modest undertaking at the

start, but came rapidly into prominence on account of the successful launching of the *Great Eastern* steamship, which was accomplished by use of the Tangye hydraulic jack. The firm was one of the first to introduce steam-engines with interchangeable parts; its products in many fields of engineering have now a world-wide reputation. Mr. Tangye lived for many years at Heathfield Hall, formerly the home of James Watt. He carefully preserved Watt's garret workshop, and brought together a fine collection of relics of Boulton and Watt, which he finally gave to the city of Birmingham.

THE death is announced in *Engineering* for October 15 of SIR JOHN MCLAREN, who was well known in Leeds engineering circles. Sir John was born in 1850, and finished his education at Durham University. He started in business in 1876 with his brother, and his firm carried out many important contracts. When the war broke out he was made chairman of the board of management of the National Factories for Munitions in Leeds. He was a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

By the death of MR. HENRY STEEL on October 7, chairman of the United Steel Companies, many organisations with which he was prominently connected have suffered a severe loss. Mr. Steel was educated in Brussels and at the University of London. The combine of which he was chairman included many large firms, and had a capital of more than 9,000,000*l.* He became a member of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1886.

Notes.

PROF. T. W. EDGEWORTH DAVID, C.M.G., F.R.S., professor of geology in the University of Sydney, has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (K.B.E.) for services in connection with the war.

THE gold medal of the Royal College of Physicians, which is awarded by the college every three years for distinction in public health, was presented to Dr. W. H. Hamer, Medical Officer of the County of London, on Monday, October 18.

THE Emil Fischer memorial lecture will be delivered by Dr. M. O. Forster at the ordinary scientific meeting of the Chemical Society on Thursday, October 28, at 8 p.m. By the courtesy of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the meeting will be held in the lecture theatre of that institution.

THE expedition sent by the Norwegian Government, in command of Capt. G. Hansen, to lay depôts for Capt. Roald Amundsen has returned safely, having accomplished its task. The *Times* announces that Capt. Hansen, after wintering in the Eskimo settlement at Thule, started northward in March this year,

accompanied by several Eskimo who had previously served with Peary. The march was along the coast of Greenland by Smith Sound and Kane Basin. North of Franklin Island fast sea-ice several years old enabled the expedition to cross Kennedy Channel to Grinnell Land. With some difficulty, due to extremely rough pack, Cape Sheridan was rounded and the goal of the march reached at Cape Columbia, the most northerly point of Grant Land. There the last of a series of depôts was laid which will enable Amundsen, if his Polar drift brings him to the neighbourhood, to abandon his ship and travel southward by easy marches to the Danish settlements in Greenland.

THE first Pan-Pacific Scientific Conference met at Honolulu on August 2-20, when some noteworthy resolutions were carried (*Science*, September 24). Dealing with the promotion of scientific education, the conference recommended that the compensation for instruction and for research in science should be increased in order that young men may enter upon scientific careers without sacrificing all hopes of reasonable monetary returns; and, further, that men of exceptional attainments should be given rewards