

Mount St. Elias as 5,514 metres, in good agreement with the value (5,516 metres) calculated by Russell who, in 1891, reached a col situated at a height of 3,745 metres. Two unknown snowy peaks, observed in the west, were named Lucania and Bona, these being identified topographically and measured sixteen years later by American observers. A series of meteorological and glaciological observations was made, and collections of the minerals and minute fauna of the glaciers, and the first complete series of views of the St. Elias group were secured.

In the summer of 1898 the Duke visited Spitsbergen and in the following winter made an excursion by sleigh into Central Siberia. Preparations were then made—quietly, indeed almost secretly—for a north polar expedition. It was decided not to follow the plan adopted by Nansen in his earlier attempt, but to proceed by ship as far north as the currents allowed and then set out on foot. A Norwegian sealing vessel, re-christened the *Stella Polaris*, was acquired and the party of eleven Italians, with a Norwegian crew of nine, sailed in July 1899 from Archangel, where the sleigh-dogs had been shipped. Franz Josef Land was reached in three weeks' time and the ship proceeded through the archipelago to cast anchor off Prince Rudolph Island (lat. $82^{\circ} 4' N.$), the most northerly island of the group. The ship narrowly escaped destruction in the ice, but was ultimately brought into a position of safety, and winter quarters were constructed on the island. During one of the trial sledge trips, the Duke was attacked by frost-bite, followed by gangrene, which necessitated the amputation of two fingers. It was not until about four months later that the weather allowed of the dispatch of the sleigh party. This was divided into three groups, to return at intervals. The first group of three, under Lieut. Querini, never came back, but Capt. Cagni's group, who were absent from the camp for 104 days, reached lat. $86^{\circ} 34' N.$, thus surpassing Nansen's record. In spite of the many difficulties encountered, the expedition was away only fourteen months, at that time the shortest period for a polar expedition.

Other expeditions organised by the Duke were those to Ruwenzori, in Central Africa, in 1906, when twelve peaks, all exceeding 4,600 metres, were ascended, measured and mapped; to the Karakoram Himalayas in 1909, when Bride Peak was climbed to a height of 7,500 metres (the highest altitude reached up to that time), the attempt to cover the remaining 150 metres having to be abandoned; and to the sources of the Webi Shebeli River, which flows through Ethiopia and Somaliland. On all these expeditions much valuable information of interest, not merely to geographers, but also to the whole scientific world, was collected and published. Their uniform success was due to the minute care taken in the preliminary preparations and, particularly, to the enthusiasm which the Duke showed and imparted to every one of his companions in every exploit he undertook.

The Italian Mission to the Abyssinian court in 1927 was led by the Duke, who later paid a second visit to the Webi Shebeli River and surveyed large areas in Abyssinia. Somaliland, where he had a large farm, claimed a good deal of his attention, and it was to his work on irrigation and on improvements in other directions that the opening up of this country was largely due.

Born in Madrid on January 29, 1873, shortly before the abdication from the Spanish throne of his father, Duke Amedeo of Aosta, brother to King Humbert of Italy, he passed away, after a life of ceaseless activity, in Somaliland, to the colonisation of which so much of his energy was devoted.

DR. JULIUS SCHMIDT

WE regret to learn from the *Chemiker-Zeitung* of the death of Dr. Julius Schmidt, extra-ordinary professor of organic chemistry at the Technische Hochschule in Stuttgart and director of the Chemistry Laboratory at the Höhere Maschinenbauschule in Esslingen, aged sixty-one years. A native of Baiersdorf in Bavaria, Schmidt studied under Knorr at the University of Jena and graduated in 1894. In 1900 he was appointed lecturer in organic chemistry at Stuttgart, where he carried out numerous investigations in the field of organic chemistry. His researches dealt particularly with nitroso-compounds, oximes and quinones, and with derivatives of phenanthrene and fluorene. He was also the author of numerous books and pamphlets on alkaloids, quinones, nitroso-compounds, organic magnesium compounds and pyrazoles. He also published a handbook of organic chemistry, which has been translated into English, and a yearbook of organic chemistry.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:—

Prof. Victor Goldschmidt, honorary professor of mineralogy in the University of Heidelberg, on May 8, aged eighty years.

Dr. William H. Holmes, formerly chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology and director of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, distinguished as a geologist, and a pioneer in field work in the archaeology of North and Central America, on April 21, at the age of eighty-six years, at Royal Oak, Michigan, following on a paralytic stroke.

Dr. Leonard Huxley, editor of the *Cornhill Magazine*, author of "Life of Huxley", "Life of Sir Joseph Hooker", "Thomas Henry Huxley, a Character Sketch" and "Charles Darwin", on May 3, aged seventy-two years.

Mr. John Mackereth, a deputy conservator in the Indian Forest Service, on May 5, aged thirty-four years.

Prof. J. T. J. Morrison, emeritus professor of forensic medicine and toxicology in the University of Birmingham, on May 10, aged seventy-six years.