

Shapley and his collaborators continued to explore the Magellanic clouds, to probe the spatial distribution of external galaxies; and (in 1938) discovered new dwarf galaxies in Sculptor and Fornax—discoveries which augmented the known population of the inner metagalaxy in an unexpected manner.

Then World War II came; and with it a sequence of changes the end of which is nowhere yet in sight. At its end in 1945, Shapley was 60 years of age; and as an "elder statesman" of science he was called upon to perform many extracurricular duties—such as to preside over the American Astronomical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Society of Sigma Xi, almost in succession. All these duties took much of his time from the observatory and from more creative work. As a result, the last seven years of Shapley's term of office as director of the Harvard Observatory were not, perhaps, marked

by the same *élan* as the decade preceding them; and his observatory gradually yielded its leading position to others.

Shapley's retirement from directorship in 1952 (he continued to serve as research professor until 1956) brought to a close an era which kept Harvard Observatory in the forefront of astronomical progress for 75 years under the administration of two outstanding directors—a record unequalled in the annals of astronomy. Unlike his predecessor, E. C. Pickering, who died in office, Shapley survived his retirement for another 20 years; and saw the directorship of his observatory change hands no less than three times. He continued to be active as a lecturer and author for some time after 1956; but his creative powers slowly waned; and he died peacefully on October 20 of this year in Boulder, Colorado, while on a visit to his son. He is survived by his wife Martha Betz Shapley—his faithful col-

laborator already from the Princeton days, and as gracious a hostess as ever presided over the social life of any observatory, keeping her own and no small scientific abilities largely under a bushel—and five children, all of whom have been active in further development of science. Moreover, Shapley's talents as a scientist and writer are already in evidence among his grandchildren as well.

Harlow Shapley was an outstanding man of his time—astronomer, educator, author, orator, as well as man of affairs. Some of his gifts, displayed prominently in the course of his life, may gradually fall in oblivion as those of us who knew him in his prime may no longer be here to remember; and dust may settle on some of his work, or on many honours bestowed upon him by his contemporaries. But one title to fame will never tarnish—Shapley's discovery of the centre of our Galaxy, and of our position within it.

Announcements

University News

Professor G. Born has been appointed to the Sheild chair of pharmacology in the **University of Cambridge**, in succession to **Professor A. S. V. Burgen**.

Dr R. D. Guthrie, University of Sussex, has been appointed a foundation professor and chairman of the School of Science at the new **Griffith University**, Queensland.

Professor J. G. Ramsay has been appointed professor of earth sciences in the **University of Leeds**.

Dr J. R. A. Pearson, University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the chair of

chemical engineering at Imperial College, **University of London**.

Dr G. R. Dickson, principal of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, has been appointed to the chair of agriculture at the **University of Newcastle upon Tyne**.

Miscellaneous

The **Tsiolkovskii gold medal** for 1972 has been awarded to **Mstislav V. Keldysh**, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, for his "contributions to the working out of scientific problems connected with the exploitation and use of outer space".

Dr Christian de Duve of the University of Louvain and the Rockefeller University has been awarded the **Dr H. P. Heineken-**

Prijs for 1973, for his research on lysosomes, peroxisomes and carbohydrate metabolism.

The following **Royal Society medals** have been awarded by the President and Council of the Royal Society: The Copley medal, to **Sir Nevill Mott**, University of Cambridge and Imperial College, London; The Rumford medal to **Dr B. J. Mason**, Meteorological Office; The Davy medal to **Professor A. J. Birch**, Australian National University; The Darwin medal to **Dr D. Lack**, Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Oxford; The Buchanan medal to **Sir Richard Doll**, University of Oxford; The Hughes medal to **Dr B. D. Josephson**, University of Cambridge; The Leverhulme medal to **Dr J. B. Adams**, Cern.

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