

DOCTOR SINKITI OGURA

Dr. Sinkiti OGURA was born in Sendai, one of the northeastern provinces of Japan, on 20th November 1884.

In July 1908 he finished the course of astronomy in the Faculty of Science of the Tokyo Imperial University. Then he proceeded to the Graduate School of the same University further to study practical astronomy for two years. His service in the Imperial Japanese Navy, which extended over 26 years, began in July 1910 when he was put in charge of matters connected with the tidal current surveys and magnetic operations in the Hydrographic Department. During this long period Dr. OGURA held additional posts as instructor in the Naval War College, and assistant or instructor in the Faculty of Science of the Tokyo Imperial University from time to time.

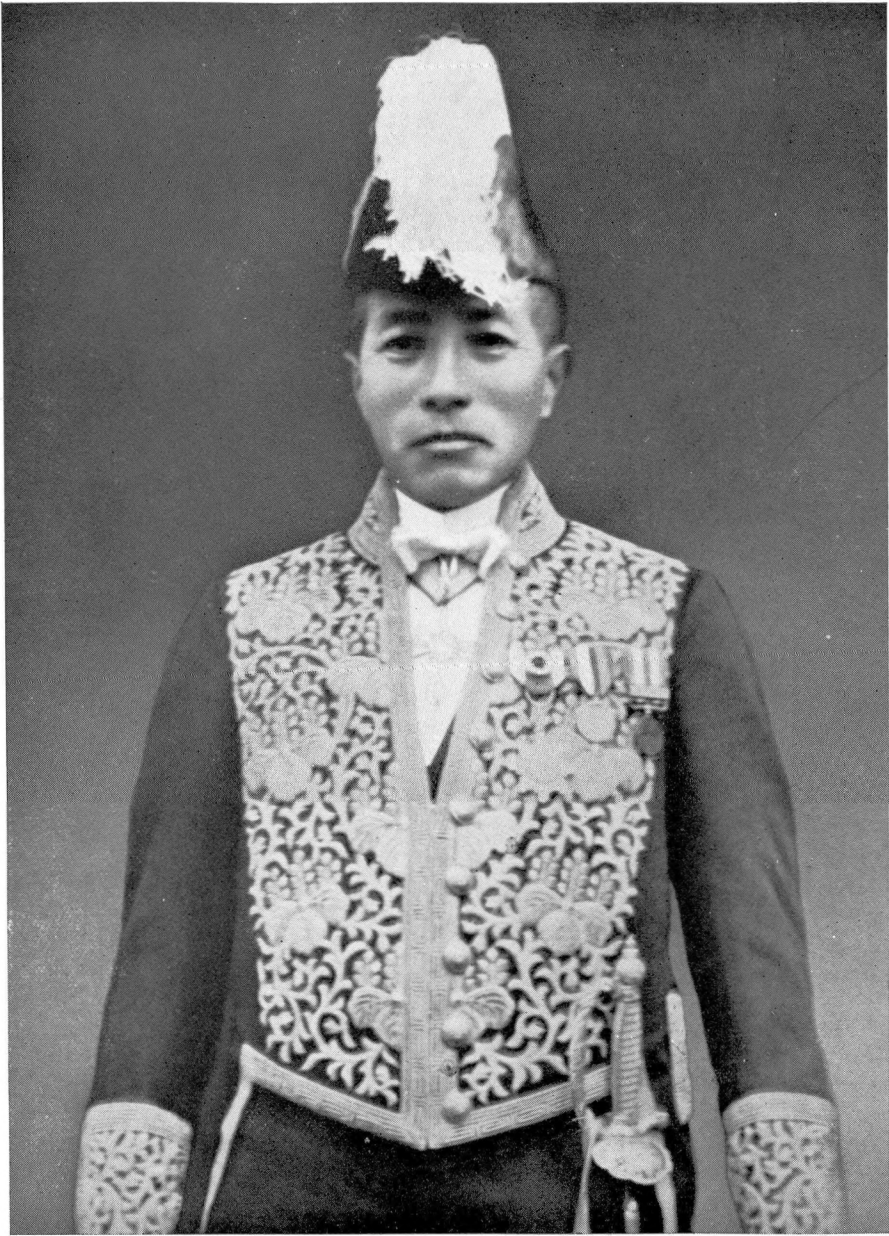
In April 1918 he was appointed Naval Engineer, high official of the sixth grade, and became a regular member of the staff of the Hydrographic Department. Promotion continued until at last he reached the rank of the second grade, a rank of high civil official corresponding to Rear-Admiral, in 1930. In 1927 he assumed the duties of chief of the Fourth Section of the Hydrographic Department, the section dealing with the astronomical calculations, research and the prediction of tides, where he remained until his last day. In 1928, the Tokyo Imperial University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Science. From 1924 he was a member of the National Committee on Geography as well as the Pacific Investigation Committee, and later member of the Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics of the National Research Council of Japan.

Dr. OGURA, as an astronomical specialist, was enthusiastically devoted to the application of astronomy to practical navigation. The Altitude Tables compiled by him in 1920 are widely known as "Ogura's Tables". Early in his service in the Navy, he saw the necessity for the investigation of tidal currents keeping pace with that of tides, and the work entitled: "The Current Charts in the Naikai" was one of the fruits of his study along these lines.

In the Hydrographic Department he began calculations on the positions of heavenly bodies and other data necessary for compilation of the Nautical Almanac. He was very well versed in oceanography, and the oceanographical observations carried out by the Japanese Navy in which he had a part have contributed in no small way to the advancement of this science.

He represented Japan at the following scientific conferences, making much of his work public :

Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress held in Australia in 1923.



Dr. SINKITI OGURA.

Conference on the Far-Eastern Productive Power at Khabarovsk
in 1926.

Pacific Science Congress in Java in 1929.

Pacific Science Congress in Canada in 1932.

The principal publications written or compiled by him, which were issued by the Hydrographic Department, Imperial Japanese Navy, are as follows :

Suiro Zasso (Miscellaneous Reports on Hydrography), 4 vols.

Tides in the Seas adjacent to Japan (1914).

Charts of Tidal Currents in the Naikai (1929).

General Instruction on the Tides for Navigational use.

New Altitude and Azimuth Tables (partly).

Tidal Currents in Yokohama Harbour (1933).

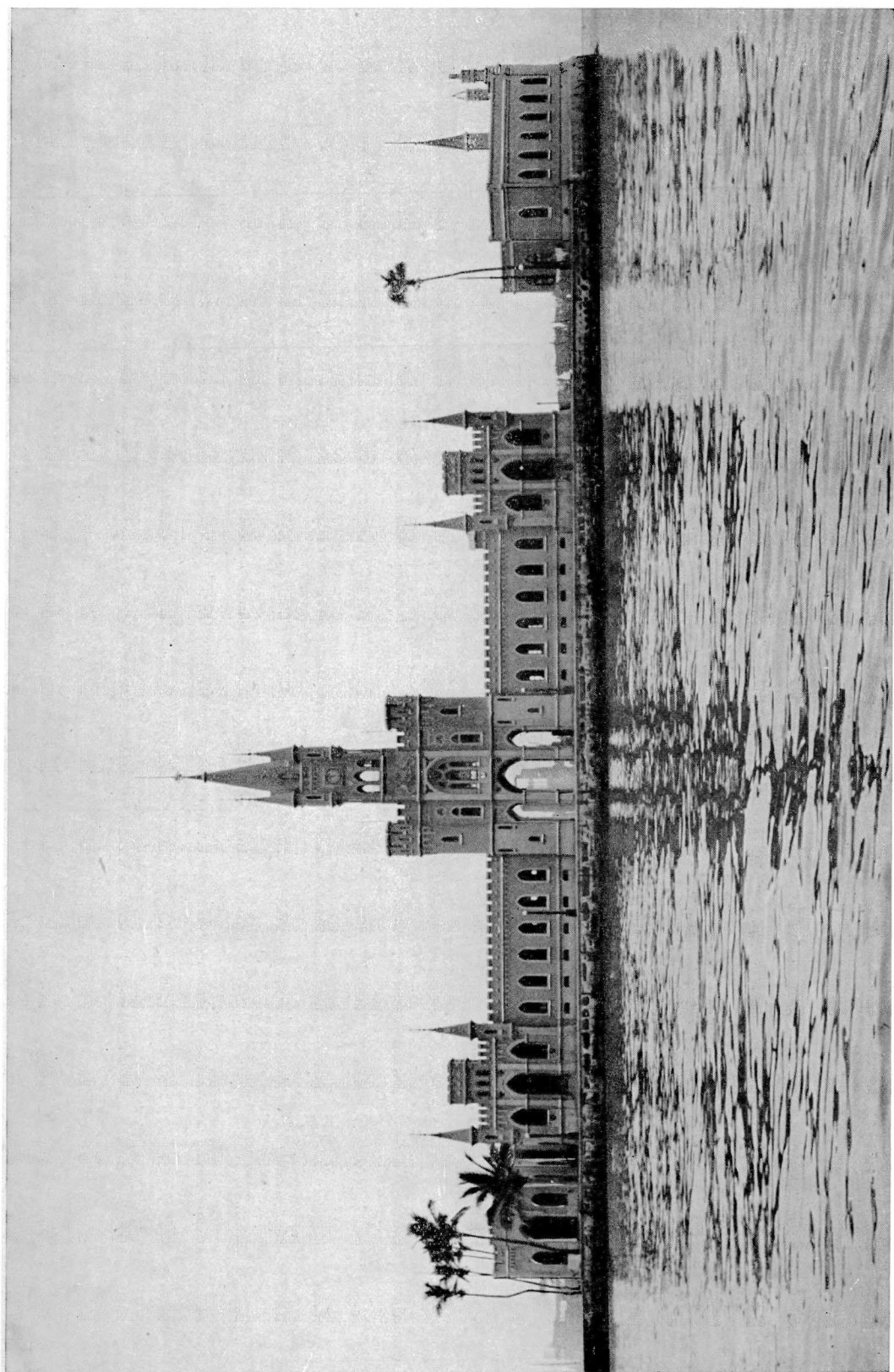
Tides in the Seas adjacent to Japan (1933, in English).

Dr. OGURA was a man of noble character, of few words, and of frank disposition. He was generous towards others and bore himself with modesty. He was a remarkably hard worker and never thought of a rest.

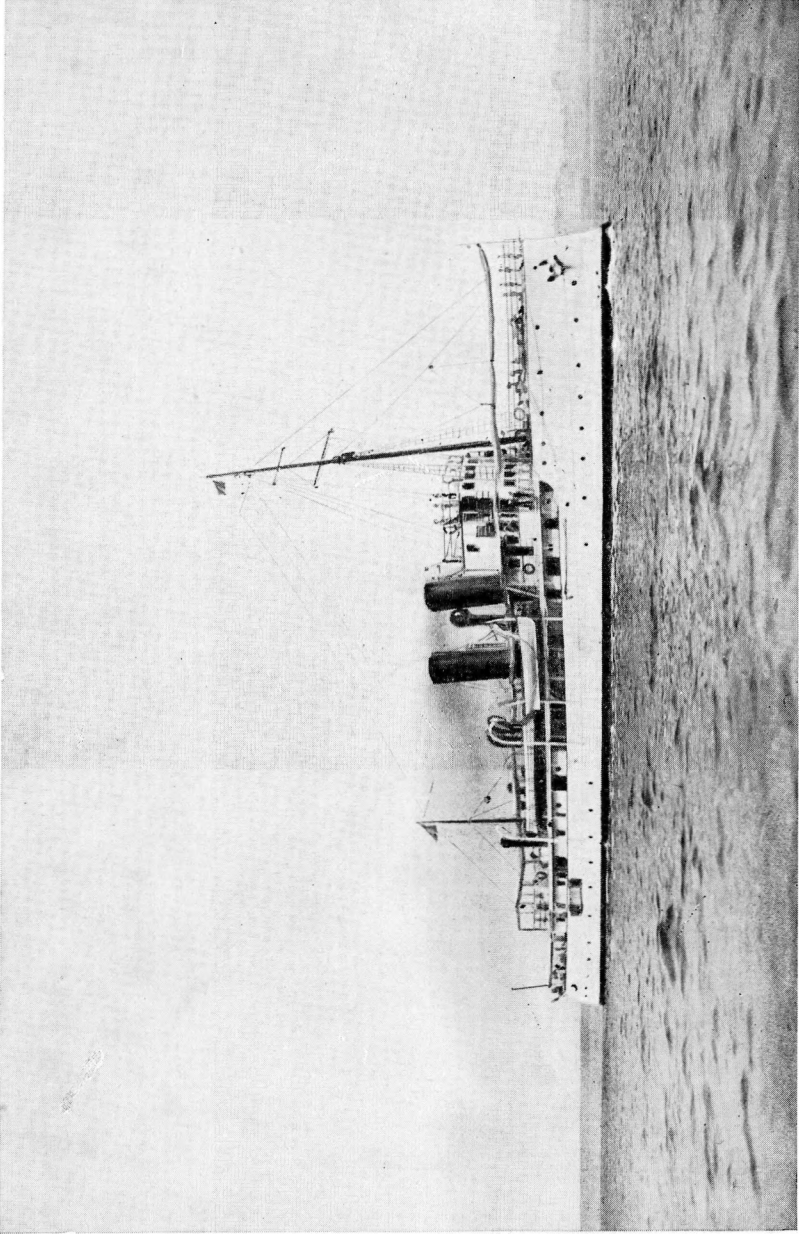
In May 1934 he was decorated with the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Dr. OGURA died unexpectedly on November 1st, 1936, of an intestinal disorder, at his home in Tokyo, while holding the post of the Chief of the 4th Section of the Hydrographic Department. Shortly before his death he was promoted to the 1st class high official rank and decorated by the Emperor with the Order of the Rising Sun.





ИША ФИСКАЛ.



NAVIO HYDROGRAPHICO "RIO BRANCO" 1934.