

P. H. GALLÉ

(From an Obituary Notice in the *Tijdschrift van het Koninklijk Nederlandsch Aardrijkskundig Genootschap*, Amsterdam, Leiden, July 1934, p. 487).

This eminent personage died, aged barely 60, on 9th May 1934.

As Director of the Amsterdam branch of the Koninklijk Nederlandsch Meteorologisch Instituut, GALLÉ followed directly in the footsteps of his predecessors VAN HASSELT and ROOSENBERG in placing his scientific knowledge at the service of mariners. The sea, its currents, tides and depths, and the atmospheric conditions which dominate it, were the subject of his studies for the common good of the maritime world.

Having started his career as a Naval Officer, he was appointed in 1906 as Assistant Director of the Meteorological Institute, a post in which he delivered himself body and soul to his favourite study of meteorology and climatology. His publications in numerous reviews and his engaging personality made of him a worthy successor to Mr. ROOSENBERG as Director of the Branch, when the latter died in 1919. He not only continued his researches to the best advantage, but extended them to the domain of oceanography and obtained unparalleled success in putting them to practical use. The rules based on personal observations, which he drew up for guarding against cyclones, are celebrated among meteorologists and navigators, breaking, as they did, with precedent; of the greatest importance also are his instructions, in the domain of meteorology and currents, on the tracks to be followed by ships on new navigational routes. GALLÉ had obtained the collaboration of certain captains navigating in all the seas of the world, who sent him the results of their observations; this supplemented his theoretical material and enabled him to draw conclusions from both and to awaken the interest of seamen in such observations and to keep this interest alive.

Under his control the Branch corrected tens of thousands of charts for the use of seamen, adjusted compasses and chronometers, and helped in the application of discoveries in the domain of nautical instruments.

GALLÉ edited a fundamental work, *De Klimatologie van den Indischen Ocean* (The Climatology of the Indian Ocean). He published numerous articles on meteorology, oceanography, magnetism and nautical instruments, in *De Zee* (in the editing of which he also took a part), in *Hemel en Dampkring*, the *Marineblad*, the Reports of the "Marinevereeniging", *Petermanns Mitteilungen*, and the *Annalen der Hydrographie und Maritimen Meteorologie*. He wrote an important paper on the highest sea level in connection with the closing of the Zuyder Zee. He showed himself on this occasion the worthy successor of his great master VAN DER STOK.

He was also a Professor at the Naval War College and Commissioner for the Higher Navigation School at Amsterdam, an institution where he gave a new and excellent outlook to the navigation courses.

The "De Ruyter" Gold Medal was awarded him for exceptional services, as to VAN DER STOK (in 1919), by the foundation of that name. It was presented to him two years ago in the presence of H. R. H. THE PRINCE CONSORT of the Netherlands, and it was little thought at that time that GALLÉ was so soon to be torn from his vocation.

PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS

The following passages are extracted from an obituary notice concerning Professor W. M. DAVIS published in *Nature*, London, 30th June 1934, page 973.

Professor William Morris DAVIS devoted the whole of his life and a scientific career, which stretched over a period of more than sixty years, to geological, geographical and oceanographic investigation; more especially his name is associated with the development of geomorphology. His first field of study was the southern part of New England, including New Jersey, and his publications extend to every type of its topography. In his publications *The Rivers of Northern New Jersey* and *The Rivers and Valleys of Pennsylvania*, he analyses the subject of faulting and different forms of erosion, and his work on shore-line topography, the continental slopes and marine shelves, bristles with original ideas. More than twenty-five years ago he had foreseen the down-faulting of an extension of the Deccan in the area now occupied by the Indian Ocean, actually the area of investigation of the JOHN MURRAY Expedition. During the last thirty years of his life DAVIS' scientific output was gigantic; he set himself to build up gradually that comprehensive study of the visible earth forms on which modern geography is so largely based.

In addition to his lectures at Harvard University, where he held a professorship, he lectured in many other parts of the world with the object of popularizing the science of geography. Towards 1912 he became intensely interested in the coral reef problem, upon which he published more than forty papers. He visited several times the West Indies, the Fiji Islands, New Caledonia, Tahiti and the Great Barrier Reef and in 1928 he wrote, in this connection, *The Coral Reef Problem*, published in the Shaler Memorial Series.
