

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.

---