

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FRIEDRICH BIDLINGMAIER.

Among the early victims of the present unfortunate European war was our lamented colleague, Professor Dr. Friedrich Bidlingmaier, who lost his life on September 23, 1914, in the battle of Verdun, at the age of 39 years.

Born at Lauffen, on the Neckar, on October 5, 1875, he obtained his early education at Maulbronn and Blaubeuren, and from 1894-1898 pursued studies in mathematics and physics at the universities of Tübingen and Göttingen. During the period 1898-1900 he was assistant in the Physical Institute of the "Technische Hochschule" in Dresden.

In May 1900 he joined the staff, as magnetician, of the German Antarctic Expedition 1901-1903, under the leadership of Professor von Drygalski. The various publications relating to the magnetic work of this expedition furnish the best possible testimony of the enthusiasm, zeal, and ability displayed by Bidlingmaier. Handicapped as he was by lack of certain instrumental appliances, and being obliged also to contend with the difficulties inherent when ocean magnetic observations must be made on a vessel not wholly designed for the purpose, it is not to his discredit that he at times was unable to reach the degree of accuracy which he had set for himself. Apparently fully recognizing this, he sought, with splendid success, by theoretical and experimental investigations, to make the contributions to terrestrial magnetism of the German Antarctic Expedition noteworthy ones. It is unfortunate that, for one reason or another, publication was at times so much delayed that others were obliged to go over somewhat the same ground.

In 1907 he was privat docent in geophysics at the University of Berlin; in 1908 he occupied a similar post at the "Technische Hochschule" in Aachen, where he was also assistant in Professor Haussmann's institute. At the Wilhelmshaven naval observatory, to which he received a call in the fall of 1909, his "magnetic activity" began to display itself once more. After a sojourn here of 3 years, he was appointed, in 1912, "Kustos" of the Munich magnetic observatory, in succession to the deceased Messerschmitt. His various publications during these years 1909-'14 amply testify to his versatility, his insight, and his deep love for investigation and the truth.

He was married in October 1906 to Miss Edith Ideler, daughter of Pastor Ideler. His unpublished manuscripts and data relating to the German Antarctic Expedition have been taken in charge by Professor von Drygalski.

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