

CAROLINE ELLEN FURNESS

1869 - 1936

The Faculty of Vassar College records with regret the death on February 9, 1936, of Professor Caroline Ellen Furness. Miss Furness, a member of the faculty since 1894, has been director of the college observatory since 1915 and in 1916 was appointed Alumnae Maria Mitchell Professor of Astronomy. She was the academic descendant of Maria Mitchell who chose her student, Mary W. Whitney, to be her successor, Miss Whitney in turn choosing Miss Furness to succeed her. Miss Furness carried on the tradition established by Maria Mitchell and the Vassar Observatory continued to make frequent and valuable contributions in the field of astronomy. Under Miss Furness' direction the observatory also took part in cooperative enterprises such as the observation of the total solar eclipse of January 1925. Because of her numerous publications, both scientific and of a general nature, Miss Furness was internationally known and had many friends among astronomers at whose observatories she was always a welcome guest and an enthusiastic co-worker. At the Century of Progress Exposition the judges included her book "An Introduction to Variable Stars" among the best one hundred books written by American women during the last century.

The college has lost a loyal, able and devoted alumna, the faculty one of its most valued and best known members, and the community a generous friend.

Edna Carter

Mary Landon Sague

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