Special Bulletin

University of Notre Dame
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN
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REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Dr. Arthur E. Haas, prominent Professor of Physics of the faculty of Notre Dame, died Thursday at 5:00 A.M. in Chicago after a three months' illness.

Professor Haas was born in Brno, Moravia, on April 30, 1884. He received his secondary education in a high school of his native town. He studied physics at the University of Vienna and received his doctor's degree there in 1906. He did further graduate studies at the University of Göttingen. In 1912 and 1913 he was assistant professor (docent) at the University of Vienna. From 1913-1923 he was Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Leipzig. ]From 1923-1936 he was Professor of Physics at the University of Vienna. During this time, he spent several years as a visiting lecturer in this country. In 1935 he was visiting professor at Bowdoin College. In 1936 he came to Notre Dame.

Since coming to Notre Dame, he has been of great assistance in the development of the Department of Physics through his contacts with eminent scientists both here and abroad. Through him the department was able to secure two outstanding scientists from the University of Vienna.

Dr. Haas's contributions to the progress of physics may be considered under two categories, the research man and the teacher. Among his notable achievements in the field of research were his development of the formula for Rydberg's constant, containing only elementary constants. That this was an important step in the development of modern atomic physics was called to the attention of physicists by H. A. Lorentz and later emphasized by Sommerfeld. In 1920 with Loomis and Kratzer, although independent of them, he developed the theory of the isotopic effect in band spectra. In later years he had been interested in the relations of atomic and cosmic constants and developed constants later used by Eddington, Jordan, and others.

As a teacher, Dr. Haas introduced modern theoretical concepts to many scientists both here and abroad. He wrote the first modern textbook on theoretical physics. He was an authority on the history of physics and published a book on the historical development of the fundamental concepts of mechanics. He was editor-in-chief and contributor to the Gibbs' Commentary. In addition, his enthusiasm for his work led him to lecture and write in a popular manner so that the average person might have some appreciation of the problems of the physicist and of his contributions to the progress of modern civilization.

One of his graduate students, on first hearing of Dr. Haas' illness, paid him this tribute: "When you sat before Dr. Haas, you sensed not only a great intellect, but equally important in a teacher, a great heart with love for his students and enthusiasm for his work."

To his widow and sons, Arthur and George, Notre Dame extends her sympathy and can promise a frequent remembrance in the prayers, Masses and Communions of her faculty and students for this great and gentle soul who contributed so much to her prestige in scientific circles.

According to tentative arrangements, the funeral will be on Saturday morning at 8:30 at the University, Sacred Heart Church, the Requiem Mass to be sung by Father Henry J. Bolger, C.S.C., Head of the Department of Physics.

The Faculty Club Has already arranged the following Masses for the repose of his soul: the 7:20 Mass in Dillon Chapel on Friday and the 10:00 student Mass on Sunday.