

Weekly Chemsawa American

VOL. 14

FEBRUARY, 16 1912

NO 25

Galileo.

To Galileo, the Pisa astronomer, the world owes a debt not alone for his wonderful discoveries in astronomy, but for his inventive genius which permitted him to devise instruments invaluable for the carrying out of his study, which was at the time of his birth, 1564, so much absorbing the the scientific world.

It was Galileo who first constructed a telescope in 1609, with which he discovered mountains and cavities in the moon, the round discs of the planets, the four satellites of Jupiter and spots of the sun. For teaching the Copernican theory, Galileo was accused of heresy, examined by the Inquisition and put to the torture. Worn by age he succumbed to his persecutors and adjured his objectionable doctrines in 1633 and finally died totally blind at Florence in 1642.

Among the ranks of the great astronomers it would be difficult to find one whose life presents more interesting features and remarkable vicissitudes than does that of Galileo. It was while he was professor of Mathematics at Padua that he entered upon his marvelous career of investigation which was destined to revolutionize science.

In order to further develop his studies, he engaged a skilled workman to live at his house and thus be constantly at hand to try the devices forever springing from Galileo's fertile brain. Among the earliest of his inventions appears to have been the thermometer, which he constructed in 1602.

When Galileo invented his telescope a short time afterwards its remarkable properties at once commanded universal attention among the intelligent men. When he first turned it on the heavens he was amazed to find that he could count 10 times as many stars in the sky as his unaided eye could detect.

Galileo's celestial discoveries now succeeded each other rapidly. That beautiful Milky Way, which has for ages been the object of admiration to all lovers of nature, never disclosed its true beauty to the eye of man till the astronomer of Padua turned on it his magic tube. But the greatest discovery made by the telescope in those early days, perhaps, indeed, the greatest discovery that the telescope has ever accomplished, was the detection of the system of four satellites revolving around the great planet Jupiter. Num-

(Continued on page 8.)