

PROF. R. A. PROCTOR DEAD

His Quick Demise Thought to Have Been Due to Yellow Fever.

NEW YORK HEALTH BOARD ALARMED.

**His Death Preceded by the Black Vomit—
The Disease Probably Contracted
at His Observatory at Oak
Lawn, Fla.**

New York, Sept. 12.—Prof. Richard A. Proctor died at 7:15 this evening, his death being preceded by the black vomit.

Prof. Proctor had an observatory at Oak Lawn, Marion County, Fla., and he resided there with his family. He intended to go to Europe and arrived here last Monday, having already engaged passage on a steamer sailing next Saturday. He stopped at an up-town hotel, the name of which is suppressed by the Board of Health. He usually stops at the Westminster while in this city. On Monday evening he complained of feeling ill. As he had been troubled with Bright's disease for some time, his symptoms were attributed to this disease. The physician visiting him thought he would be about on Tuesday. He slept at the hotel. On Tuesday, however, he became worse and began to show symptoms of yellow fever. As the day wore on the symptoms became more marked, and no doubt was had of the nature of the disease. It was then decided to remove him to North Brothers Island, but on account of the storm it was subsequently considered imprudent to remove him so far and he was taken to the Willard Parker Hospital. The Board of Health was not informed of the case until to-day, when it caused consternation in the office. Everything in the apartment he had occupied was destroyed and his room and the halls were thoroughly fumigated. President Baylis decided to keep the office of the Board of Health open to-night for fear of any further cases. Dr. Baylis, however, says that the efforts of the department will probably prevent the spread of the disease. In case of an outbreak of the fever, he said, he was prepared to accommodate many hundreds of patients on North Brothers Island, but he feared no such outbreak.

Prof. Proctor was about fifty-five years of age, and robust. He said there had been no yellow fever in the part of the country he had come from, and he was unable to account for his attack. His family is still at Oak Lawn, Fla.

The health officers here are confident that they can battle successfully with the disease in any event. They deny that there are any grounds for popular apprehension, even should other cases be imported from the South. The machinery of the board is in good order and could handle several cases a day without inconvenience. No danger from exposure could result from the removal of patients. "The city," said President Baylis, of the Health Board, "is in no danger. Prof. Proctor's remains were placed in a metallic coffin according to the rules of the Board of Health, so that there can be no danger from burial in any burial ground." Everything in the hotel room where Proctor stopped has been removed, upholstery, carpets, bedding, and the place thoroughly cleansed and the room nailed tight. The health officials claim that more precautions were taken than were necessary, and Dr. Edson said that he would not be afraid to sleep in the room himself to-night. The room was also thoroughly disinfected.

President Baylis said there was not another case known or suspected in the city of yellow fever at present, but that in view of the arrival every day of refugees from the South the doctors could not be too prompt in reporting all suspicious cases. Everything depended upon quick and energetic work.

Richard Anthony Proctor, B. A., was born at Chelsea, (Eng.) March 23, 1837, and in boyhood was educated chiefly at home, having had bad health for several years; subsequently he pursued his studies at King's College, London, and St. John's College, Cambridge. He graduated as twenty-third wrangler in 1860.

He was appointed an honorary fellow of King's College, London, in 1873; fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1866. He was appointed honorary secretary of that society and editor of its proceedings in February, 1872, but resigned these offices in November, 1873.

He has at no time been a candidate for an appointment or salaried office of any kind, and he has not proceeded to his M. A. degree for the reason that it is not like the B. A. degree (at least at Cambridge) a title representing work done, but money paid.

Having analyzed results collected by the Herschels, Shruve and others, and carried out a series of original researches, including the construction of a chart of 824,000 stars, Mr. Proctor was led to a new theory of the structure of the stellar universe, investigated the conditions of the transits of Venus in 1874 and 1882, and published many illustrative charts. He maintained, on theoretical grounds, in 1869, the since established theory of the solar corona, and also that of the inner complex solar atmosphere afterwards discovered by Young, of America.

Prof. Proctor came to America originally on a lecturing tour in 1873-74, and subsequently took up his residence in this country. His wife was a St. Joseph, Mo., lady, and they were married in 1885. They lived at St. Joe for quite a while, and then moved to New York. Prof. Proctor had lectured and written extensively on scientific subjects in this country.