

Schurz Professor Returns to Germany after Lecturing in All Parts of the Country

Dr. Arnold Sommerfeld, professor of mathematical physics at the University of München, who gave advanced courses here last semester in the department of physics has recently sailed from New York to return to Germany.

When leaving Madison, Professor Sommerfeld had before him an extensive program of lecturing and expert advisory work that was to take him as far as the Pacific coast and, upon his return to the east was to include a prolonged stay in Washington in the official capacity of "consulting physicist" in the Bureau of Standards. ~~The extent of his activities of this kind away from Madison is indicated by the following data.~~

During the semester, while lecturing at the University, Professor Sommerfeld used week-ends for visiting the Universities of Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois, and Northwestern University, speaking thirteen times at these four institutions. A general lecture of more popular character was also given before the "Deutsche Literarische Gesellschaft" of Milwaukee. In Milwaukee Professor Sommerfeld spoke in German, whereas practically all of his other lectures and addresses were given in English.

During February and March, i.e. after his departure from Madison, the German scientist filled engagements at the University of Kansas; the Institute of Technology at Pasadena, Calif. (speaking eleven times); the University of California (~~ten times~~); Colorado College; the A. and M. College at Ames, Iowa (3); Washington, D.C. (speaking ten times at different institutions); the General Electric Co. at Schenectady, N.Y. (2); Harvard University (4); Cornell University (2); Columbia University; and the Western Electric Co. of New York. Considering the railway travel involved in this program and a considerable amount of sight-seeing, social obligations and personal conferences with American scientists, this program of forty-six lectures in two months represents a strenuous performance even according to American standards.

Professor Sommerfeld's services to the cause of international scholarship have thus not been confined to Madison and the State of Wisconsin. They have extended to a large number of the most important scholarly centers in the country at large. In many of the places visited by him--for all of which he reports a kind and considerate reception on the part of colleagues and students--he appeared and spoke as the first officially recognized representative of German scholarship after the war, ~~to whom~~ ^{permitted} he was thus to help re-establish ties of international comity and co-operation, at least in the field of science and learning. The University of Wisconsin is to be congratulated on having been able to render this national service through the agency of its Carl Schurz Memorial Professorship.

Dr. A. Sommerfeld

This professorship was established from private donations of Wisconsin citizens in memory of Carl Schurz, the German-American scholar and statesman who had once been a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin and, after a life of conspicuous service as United States senator, cabinet member, and American ambassador abroad, had died in 1906. The first incumbent of the chair, which normally calls for a semester's service every other year, was Professor Euckenmann, representing German literature in 1912. His successor was Professor Heritz Bonn who lectured in economics in 1915. Since then the chair had necessarily to be left unoccupied till the appointment of Professor Sommerfeld for the first semester of 1922-23.

Professor Sommerfeld was born in Königsberg, East Prussia in 1868 and took his degree of Ph.D. at the university there in 1891. After previous appointments in the University of Göttingen, the Mining Academy at Clausthal, and the Technological College at Aachen, he accepted in 1906 the important position which he holds at present as professor of theoretical physics at the University of München. Among his numerous publications dealing partly with theoretical and partly with technical problems, the best known is his fundamental work on "Atomic Structure and Spectral Analysis" (Atombau und Spektrallinien). Though not published till 1919, the book is already in its third edition and English and French translations of it are expected to appear during the current year. Professor Sommerfeld's standing as a scientist of international reputation is also attested by the fact that he is a member of not only of the German academies of München, Berlin, and Göttingen, but also of those of Vienna, (Austria), Uppsala (Sweden), Haarlem (Holland), and Madrid (Spain).