

THE REV. A. L. CORTIE, S.J.—Aloysius Lawrence Cortie was born in London on April 27, 1859. He entered Stonyhurst as a boy in 1872, and remained until 1878, when he joined the Society of Jesus as a novice at Manresa, Roehampton. In 1881 he studied for the London University degree at St. Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst, and afterwards spent three years there in philosophical study. From 1885 to 1892 he taught Mathematics and Natural Science at Stonyhurst before going to St. Beuno's, where he was ordained on September 22, 1892. He became a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on January 9, 1891, and a Member of the British Astronomical Association on November 28, 1894. For a short time he was Prefect of Studies at the newly founded College of Stamford Hill, but in 1895 he was back at Stonyhurst again, teaching Mathematics, and in 1899 he became Director of the Solar Section of the B.A.A., an office he held until 1910 October. In 1905 he went to Spain, as a Member of the British Astronomical Association expedition, where he observed successfully the Total Solar Eclipse of that year; in 1911 he went in charge of the Solar Eclipse expedition sent out by the Government to Tonga Island, South Pacific; and again, in 1914, at Hernösund in Sweden at the outbreak of the War. He attended the meetings of the International Union for Solar Research in 1905 at Meudon in France, in 1907 at Mt. Wilson in South California, in 1910 and 1913 at Bonn and in 1922 at Rome. On this last occasion, as representative of the Stonyhurst Observatory (of which he took over the charge in 1919 on the death of Father Sidgreaves), he

was made Doctor of all the Faculties of Padua on the seventh centenary of the Foundation of that University. In 1924 he became a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Father Cortie's chief field of research in astronomy was the Sun. The relation between sunspots and terrestrial magnetism and between the photosphere and the chromosphere occupied his attention always. For forty years he observed sunspots and faculæ, contending that the latter always preceded the birth of the former.

It was said of Father Cortie that "he radiated sunshine" and that "he had no acquaintances, for acquaintances at once became his friends"; on one occasion he was introduced as "Father Cortie by name, Courteous by nature." For many years at Stonyhurst, in addition to all his other work, he conducted and taught the choir, both in the Church and concert room; the orchestra too was under his management.

In April of this year he took influenza, but seemed to be recovering when more serious symptoms became evident, and on May 1 he had a stroke, which affected his left side. He received the Holy Anointing at once. He recovered complete consciousness and the power of speech, and from time to time gave hopes of at least a partial recovery. No one was more loved at Stonyhurst, and he bore his sickness with wonderful patience and gratitude. He died on May 16, 1925, at about 7.25 in the evening.