

## CAROLINE ELLEN FURNESS

Caroline Ellen Furness, director of the Vassar College Observatory for twenty-five years, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on 1869 June 24. She was educated in the public schools of Cincinnati, Ohio, and at Vassar College, from which she graduated in 1891. She was connected with the astronomy department of Vassar from 1894, when she became Professor Mary Whitney's assistant, until her death on 1936 February 9.

Miss Furness was internationally known as one of the leading women astronomers of her generation. Her book, *Introduction to the Study of Variable Stars*, has proved helpful to many students. Columbia University granted to her the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1900 for the measurement and reduction of Helsingfors plates of the north polar region. Her principal fields of research were in the computation of comet orbits and the observation of variable stars at the Vassar College Observatory. She also aided Kapteyn at Groningen for six months in 1908 and worked at the Yerkes Observatory during the summer periods. The last full year of her life was devoted to research in the infra-red region of the solar spectrum at Mt. Wilson Observatory.—M. W. MAKEMSON.