FRIDAY, June 7, 1901.

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FRANCOIS MARIE RAOULT.

The death of Raoult, on April 1, 1901, removes from France one of her most brilliant investigators. Raoult was born at Fournes (Nord) on May 10, 1830, and was, therefore, nearly seventy-one years old when he died. After finishing his academic training in Paris, he began his career as a teacher in the Lycée at Reims at the age of twenty-three. In 1870 he was called to the chair of chemistry at Grenoble. In 1889 he was elected dean of the Faculty of Sciences in Grenoble—a position which he held until his death.

The earlier work of Raoult was devoted to problems of a purely physical nature. His thesis, presented for the degree of Doctor of Science was on ‘The Electromotive Force of Voltaic Cells,’ and much of his earlier work had to do with the phenomena connected with electrolysis.

His most important work, however, and that with which his name will always be connected, was done after 1870, while at Grenoble. When Raoult took up the study of the lowering of the freezing-point and of the vapor-tension of solvents by dissolved substances, our knowledge of these phenomena was hardly more than qualitative. A few regularities had been pointed out by Blagden, Coppet, Wülnder, Emden, Rüdorff and others, but scarcely any generalization worthy of the name had been reached.