

WILHELM OSTWALD, PHYSICIST, DIES, 78

**Winner of Nobel Chemistry
Prize of 1909 Formerly a
Dean at Leipzig.**

EXCHANGE PROFESSOR HERE

**Discovery by Him Enabled Germany
to Make Explosives Despite
Blockade by the Allies.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
LEIPZIG, April 4.—Wilhelm Ostwald, physicist, who won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1909, died at his home near here today at the age of 78.

Dr. Ostwald was the first German exchange professor at Harvard, to which university he was called in 1905. He was dean of the faculty of chemistry at the University of Leipzig until 1906, when he retired to devote his time to research. He worked on a great variety of scientific and philosophical subjects and wrote his autobiography.

Professor Ostwald lived in the little town of Grossbothen, near Leipzig. He was born in Riga, Latvia, on Sept. 2, 1853. In 1905 he served as exchange professor at Columbia, as well as Harvard. He was widely quoted in the American press while in this country and became a member of the American Academy of Sciences. Universities in many parts of the world awarded him honorary degrees and he was a prolific writer on technical and chemical subjects.

Dr. Ostwald was educated at the University of Dorpat. In 1882 he became a professor at the Polytechnic School in Riga and five years later was appointed Professor of Physical Chemistry in the University of Leipzig, where he later became the director of the Physico-Chemical Institute.

The great mass of Professor Ostwald's researches and discoveries hold little meaning for the average layman. But on the technical side he will be remembered for his discovery in 1900 of a method of oxidizing ammonia to form oxides of nitrogen, a mixture of air and ammonia being passed over a platinum catalyst.

By virtue of this process, and by later developments, Germany was enabled to continue the manufacture of explosives during the World War after the Allied blockade had gone into effect. The method is now being used in many countries under the name of the Ostwald-Brauer process, for the manufacture of nitric acid from ammonia.

MRS. MARTIN KRUSE.

**Brooklyn Real Estate Operator Dies
at 66 Years.**

Mrs. Lena Kruse, founder of the Kruse, Abramson Realty Company, of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn Mortgage Company, died yesterday at her home, 66 Eighty-second Street, Brooklyn, after an illness of three months. Mrs. Kruse, the widow of Martin Kruse, Flatbush grocer who died in 1923, was 66 years old. Two sons, F. John and Harry M. Kruse, and five grandchildren survive.

Mrs. Kruse was born in Bulkau, Germany, and came to this country at the age of 16, living in Brooklyn most of her life. She organized the realty and mortgage companies in 1907, remaining an officer in both until her death.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home tomorrow night by the Rev. John Paul Jones of the Union Church of Bay Ridge and the Rev. Charles Phillipbar of the Woodhaven Lutheran Evangelical Church. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

THOMAS CHRISTIE.

**Real Estate Man and Church Leader
Dies at Age of 76.**

Thomas Christie, who for many years was in the real estate business in Manhattan and active in church circles of Brooklyn, died on Saturday in the Brooklyn Hospital at the age of 76.

Mr. Christie was born in Morayshire, Scotland, and in 1876 was graduated from Aberdeen University. He became a member of the Church of the Pilgrims of Brooklyn Heights in 1878, and at his death was its senior deacon. For forty-seven years he was a member of the board of directors of the Brooklyn City Mission Society, and for several years a director of the New York and Brooklyn Congregational Church Extension Society. His home was at 133 Henry Street. A widow, Mrs. Harriet Bishop Christi, survives.