

TRIUMPH OF NEWTON SEEN IN DISCOVERY

**Prof. Poor Says Calculations by
Which the Planet Was Found
Prenated Einstein.**

DR. FISHER SHARES VIEW

**Astronomers to Name New Body—
Atlas, Prometheus and Tempus
Among Early Suggestions.**

The discovery of a new planet by the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., according to astronomers here yesterday, has a consequence as important as the enlargement of the solar system.

"It is a triumph of the classical Newtonian mechanics and Newton's formulation of gravitation which Einstein pretended to discard," said Charles Lane Poor, Professor of Celestial Mechanics for the past twenty years at Columbia University, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

"The disturbance of the orbits of the known planets from the positions indicated by Newton's law led to calculations of the size and position of an unknown planet purely by Newtonian mathematics," Professor Poor continued. "Einstein didn't enter into it at all. The original assumption twenty-five years ago that there must be an unseen disturber results from the Newtonian concepts of gravitation. And the calculations which saw the planet mathematically before there was any telescope capable of seeing it optically predated Einstein and were made without the slightest reference to his relativity theories, either special or general.

"It is a very great triumph for Newton's basic theory of gravitation as a description of the facts," Professor Poor concluded, "as distinguished from Einstein's attempt to substitute what he calls a four-dimensional curvature of space-time."

Dr. Fisher Takes Same View.

The same view was taken yesterday by Dr. Clyde Fisher, curator of astronomy at the American Museum of Natural History, independently of the expressions of Professor Poor, whose criticism of the adequacy of the reported proof of Einstein's theory by the bending of starlight passing the sun, has repeatedly been presented to learned societies.

Dr. Fisher said, "the discovery of this new planet at a time when so much has been said about Einstein as the only modern guide to the universe, will serve as a demonstration of how closely Newton described it."

The planet on the outer edge of the solar system which has thus given new life to the Einstein-Newton controversy has no name yet other than "Planet X." This is the name that the late Dr. Percival Lowell gave it in the calculations which convinced him so much of its existence that he founded the Lowell Observatory to search for it.

Since Dr. Lowell is dead the honor of naming it, according to astronomical custom, now falls to the group of astronomers at Flagstaff, headed by Dr. V. M. Slipher, who finally located the Lowell planet and observed it until all agreed "we are absolutely sure."

Roger Lowell Putnam of Springfield, Mass., said yesterday that he had been asked as the only trustee of the Lowell Observatory what name would be given to the new planet; and that he had made up his mind any suggestions should come from Dr. Slipher and his associates, C. O. Lampland, E. C. Slipher, J. C. Duncan, K. P. Williams, E. A. Edwards and T. B. Gill.

Several Suggestions Made.

Several suggestions have already been made by other astronomers, such as the name Atlas, and also Prometheus. One suggestion was that the concept of time should have some recognition in outer space and that the new planet should therefore be called Tempus.

At the Museum of Natural History the belief was expressed by Dr. Fisher that the name which would finally stick must fit in with the scheme of classical mythology which gave the first five planets their names more than 3,000 years ago, when the earth was not considered one among them. In order outward from the sun, they are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. The two added in modern times are Uranus and Neptune.

Dr. Fisher pointed out that when Uranus was discovered in 1781, Herschel, the discoverer, attempted in honor of King George III to name it Georgium Sidus; while his friends called it the planet Herschel. The name Uranus which finally attached to it was suggested by the astronomer Bode.

It developed yesterday that a newly discovered asteroid had been named Hooveria in honor of President Hoover by an Austrian astronomer who wished to commemorate Mr. Hoover's relief work in feeding starving children in Austria after the war.