

Dr. M. K. V. Bappu dead

BANGALORE, Aug. 19.

Dr. M. K. Valnu Bappu, astronomer and Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, here, died in Munich this evening, according to information reaching here.

Dr. Bappu had undergone a major by-pass heart surgery on August 9 in Munich while on a teaching assignment. His condition became serious following kidney failure. His wife was at his bedside when the end came. They have no children.

Dr. Bappu was elected to the International Astronomical Union in 1979 to reach the highest position a professional astronomer could aspire for. He was to relinquish office at the triennial meeting of the union now on at Patras in Greece but could not attend the meeting for medical reasons. He was the first Asian to hold the office.

Winner of Padma Bhushan, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and many other laurels, 55-year-old Dr. Bappu was awarded the prestigious "Donohoe" medal of Pacific for the discovery of Bappu-Bolt-Newkirk comet which he did while studying at Harvard University in 1949. He also helped discover a fundamental relation between the spectroscopic behaviour of a star and its luminosity in 1957. It came to be known as the "Wilson-Bappu" Effect.

Dr. Bappu, who hailed from Tallicherry in Kerala, was born in Madras.

Dr. Bappu's body is being brought to Bangalore for cremation. Mr. M. Ramani, Administrative Officer, Institute of Astrophysics, said here.—PTI.