

of Amsterdam. He also directed the Nuclear Physics Institute in Amsterdam, where he and his associates had access to the Philips cyclotron for their research.

In 1951 he became a member of the original planning group for the future CERN laboratory, and when the interim organization was created in the following year he was named to take charge of work on the synchrocyclotron. With the formal establishment of the CERN organization, Prof. Bakker became a member of the Directorate and continued as director of the Synchrocyclotron Division on a part-time basis. He succeeded Felix Bloch of Stanford University as CERN's director-general upon the latter's resignation in September 1955, and during the years that followed he played an important role in CERN's progress towards becoming the great international laboratory that it is today. The completion of the synchrocyclotron in 1957 and of the proton synchrotron in 1959 has given CERN two powerful instruments for research in nuclear physics, and it was particularly in connection with early results in working with the proton synchrotron that Prof. Bakker planned to speak before the Physical Society in Washington. (Among the initial experimental results which he was to have reported were that at the synchrotron's peak energy of 28.5 Bev it had already been found that the ratio of antiprotons to pions was quite high and that the first run with a small hydrogen bubble chamber had indicated an example of an anti-lambda particle.) On April 29, J. B. Adams, director of the Proton Synchrotron Division, was among those who took part in a simple memorial ceremony held in CERN's auditorium. "Prof. Bakker's satisfaction was in the whole of CERN," Dr. Adams said. "He lived for this organization and there can be no memorial to him more fitting and more permanent than this laboratory."

A member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, Prof. Bakker was also a member of the American Physical Society and had many friends in the United States. From 1957 until the time of his death he served as chairman of the High-Energy Commission of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

Nobel Laureate Max von Laue died on April 23 in a West Berlin hospital as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident sixteen days earlier. He was 80 years of age. Born in Pfaffendorf, near Coblenz, in western Germany, he attended the Universities of Strasbourg, Göttingen, Munich, and Berlin. He received his doctoral degree in 1903 from the University of Berlin where he studied under Max Planck, and three years later, after another period spent at the University of Göttingen, he returned to Berlin as Planck's assistant.

In subsequent years he was a lecturer at Munich and a professor at Zurich, and in 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, he accepted a professorship at Frankfurt am Main. It was in the same year that Prof. von Laue was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for his dis-

covery of the diffraction of x rays in crystals, which helped to clarify the nature of x rays and for the first time made possible the precise determination of their wavelengths. He returned to the University of Berlin in 1919 as professor of theoretical physics.

In the period between the two World Wars, von Laue was closely associated with both Planck and Einstein at the University of Berlin, and he made important contributions to the special theory of relativity. The story is told that during World War II, in giving a lecture in Stockholm, von Laue spoke of Einstein's work, for which he was officially reprimanded upon returning to Berlin. The Nazis had long since forced Einstein to leave Germany, and any espousal of the theory of relativity was frowned upon. Von Laue's response was to publish a new paper on relativity. Known to be openly opposed to the Nazi regime, he left the University of Berlin in 1943. Together with Otto Hahn, von Weizsäcker, and several other German physicists found at Heisenberg's secret atomic energy laboratory in the South German village of Hechingen in 1945, von Laue was captured by the American "Alsos" mission and interned for some months in England. After the war he was named honorary professor of physics at the University of Göttingen, and from 1951 until his retirement in March of last year he served as director of the Fritz-Haber Institute of the Max-Planck Gesellschaft.

A member of the Pontifical Academy of Science, Prof. von Laue belonged both to the Royal Society of London and the American Physical Society.

The Reverend Albert H. Poetker, S.J., professor emeritus of physics at Xavier University and a former president of the University of Detroit, died in Cincinnati on May 6. He was 73 years of age. A native of Cincinnati, Father Poetker graduated from Xavier in 1907 and in the same year entered the Society of Jesus at Florissant, Mo. He continued his studies at St. Louis University, at the Colegio de San Ignacio in Barcelona, Spain, and at the Ignatiuskolleg, Valkenburg, Netherlands. He was ordained to the priesthood in Barcelona in 1921. After returning to the United States, Father Poetker attended Johns Hopkins University. He received his PhD in physics in 1926 and stayed at Hopkins during the following year as a research fellow. His research at Hopkins was in the field of infrared spectroscopy and he is credited with having extended the Paschen series to eight spectral lines.

Father Poetker joined the faculty of Marquette University as professor of physics and chairman of the department in 1927 and at that time became director of WHAD, the university's radio station. He left Marquette in 1931 to go to the University of Detroit, where he served as president (1932-39) and executive dean (1939-50). In 1950 he went to Xavier as chairman of the Physics Department, a position which he held until 1959, when he was named professor emeritus. He was a member of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America.