

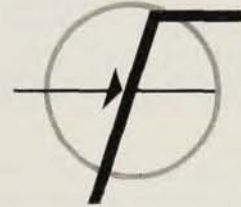
sity, where he also served as a graduate instructor in physics. After receiving his PhD in physics in 1922, he spent two years as a National Research Fellow at the California Institute of Technology, and then joined the staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories as a research physicist. His early research dealt with x rays, but the largest part of his career was devoted to the study of surface phenomena. He made fundamental contributions to the knowledge of thermionic emission, field emission, ultrahigh-vacuum technology, and the interaction of atoms and molecules with solids. He also did outstanding work in device technology involving oxide-coated cathodes, solid-state rectifiers, varistors, and thermistors.

Dr. Becker served for more than a decade as a consultant to the National Research Council and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. He was an associate editor of the *Review of Scientific Instruments* for many years, and, although heavily involved in his work at Bell Laboratories, he agreed to serve as the journal's acting editor during the several-month period following the death of Floyd K. Richtmyer (in November 1939) until a new editor could be appointed. Dr. Becker also gave of his time and energy to promote better understanding of science among laymen and to encourage better teaching of science in both higher and secondary education. For a number of years he served on the Advisory Council for Science and Engineering of Notre Dame University. In 1942 he was awarded the Mendel Medal by Villanova University.

Dr. Becker was to retire from Bell Laboratories next year, at which time he was to become professor of physics at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. He had also planned to be active as a consultant on surface problems. A fund has been established which will be used to place a collection of scientific books, as a memorial to Dr. Becker, in the library of the University of Notre Dame. Anyone wishing to join in this effort may do so by sending a contribution, payable to the Notre Dame Library Association, to Dr. S. Millman, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N. J.

Thomas E. Murray, consultant to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy and a former member of the Atomic Energy Commission, died of a coronary attack in New York City's St. Luke's Hospital on May 27. He was 69 years old.

Mr. Murray was born in Albany, N. Y., and, upon receiving a degree in mechanical engineering from Yale University's Sheffield Scientific School, began a long and successful business career spent, for the most part, in companies founded by himself or by his father, an electrical engineer and inventor. In 1950, he was appointed by President Truman to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation from the Atomic Energy Commission of David Lilienthal. After the expiration of his term as a member of the Commission, Mr. Murray continued to be active in atomic-energy matters by serving as a consultant to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.



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