

OBITUARIES

Philip Schwed, physicist at the Research Institute for Advanced Study (RIAS) in Baltimore, died February 2 at the age of 38. Born in Cincinnati, Dr. Schwed graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1944 and received his PhD in physics from that university in 1948. From June of 1944 until October of 1946, he worked as a physicist for Schenley Laboratories at Lawrenceburg, Ind. While studying for his doctorate, he served as an instructor at the University of Cincinnati and as a physicist with the University of Cincinnati Research Foundation.

In June of 1949, Dr. Schwed joined the staff of the Lewis Laboratory of the NACA in Cleveland, continuing there until 1956 when he came to RIAS. Concerned primarily with studies in solid-state and particle physics, Dr. Schwed's principal work during the past two years had to do with the cosmic radiation studies conducted by RIAS in cooperation with the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories. He was a member of the American Physical Society.

Boris Davison of the University of Toronto, well known among atomic energy workers for his book *Neutron Transport Theory* (Oxford University Press, 1957), died in January at the age of 52. A theoretical physicist who received his PhD from the University of Birmingham, Dr. Davison went to Canada during the Second World War to work as a member of the theoretical group under George Placzek at the Montreal Laboratory of the joint British-Canadian atomic energy project. Later he served on the theoretical physics staff at the Chalk River Laboratory. He finally returned to England and for several years was a member of the Theoretical Physics Division at the British Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell. In 1954, after a short stay at the University of Birmingham, he went again to Canada to accept an appointment as associate professor of physics at the University of Toronto and as a mathematician in the University's Computation Center.

In the words of a colleague at Toronto: "He was a very modest, conscientious scientist whose knowledge and talent have contributed in many ways to the technical success of the Canadian Atomic Energy Program. In the University his ability to combine analytical power with his experience and effectiveness in numerical analysis and reactor physics will be sorely missed."

Max Mason, a mathematician and mathematical physicist who once served as president of the University of Chicago and was also a former president of the Rockefeller Foundation, died on March 23 in Clare-

mont, Calif., at the age of 83. He was born in Madison, Wisc., and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1898. His graduate work was completed in Germany at the University of Göttingen, where he received his PhD in mathematics in 1903.

Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Mason taught briefly at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in 1904 was named assistant professor of mathematics at Yale. Four years later he joined the Wisconsin faculty as an associate professor, and from 1910 to 1925 he served as professor of mathematical physics at Wisconsin. During World War I he worked at the Naval Equipment Station at New London, Conn., on submarine detection problems, and he also served on the Submarine Committee of the National Research Council.

Dr. Mason was appointed president of the University of Chicago in 1925 and held that post until 1928 when he left to become director of the new Division of Natural Sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City. He was elected president of the Foundation in 1929 and continued to serve until 1936 when he accepted an appointment to the Executive Council of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. While at Caltech he also served as chairman of the Observatory Council, which directed the construction of the Mt. Palomar Observatory. He retired in 1949.

Dr. Mason was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and belonged to the American Physical Society as well as to the American Mathematical Society.

Norman E. Gilbert, emeritus professor of physics at Dartmouth College, died on March 21 at Winter Park, Fla., at the age of 86. Born in Middletown, Conn., he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Wesleyan University and his doctorate in physics (1901) from Johns Hopkins University.

He began his 42-year association with Dartmouth College in 1903 as assistant professor of physics, becoming full professor in 1918 and emeritus professor in 1945. From 1945 to 1952 he was visiting professor of physics at Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla. His publications include several papers on astronomical and electromagnetic phenomena and two physics textbooks.

Early in the century, Prof. Gilbert served as assistant astronomer at the astrophysical observatory of the Smithsonian Institution and took part in three US Naval Observatory solar eclipse programs (in North Carolina, Sumatra, and Algeria). He was a member of the American Astronomical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers, and was a fellow of the American Physical Society.