

OBITUARIES

Arthur H. Compton, professor at large at Washington University in St. Louis, the University of California at Berkeley, and the College of Wooster during the past year, died in a Berkeley hospital on March 15 after having suffered a cerebral hemorrhage two weeks previously. He was 69 years old.

Dr. Compton was born in Ohio, where his father was dean of the College of Wooster. He and his brothers Karl and Wilson were educated at Wooster and all three went on to become distinguished educators. Wilson M. Compton was for many years president of the State University of Washington. The late Karl T. Compton, who died in 1954, was an internationally known physicist who was president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Both Karl and Arthur Compton served as presidents of the American Physical Society.

Arthur Compton received his PhD in physics from Princeton University in 1916 and afterwards taught and continued his research at the University of Minnesota, the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, Washington University in St. Louis (where, at the age of 28, he was named Wayman Crow professor and chairman of the Department of Physics), the University of Chicago, and (briefly) at Punjab and Oxford Universities. He served as chancellor of Washington University from 1945 until 1953 and as distinguished service professor of natural philosophy from 1954 to 1961. He resigned from the latter post last year in order to become professor at large. He spent last fall in St. Louis, went to Berkeley for the winter months, and planned to spend the spring at Wooster. He had been lecturing on topics having to do with the broad theme of science and the growth of man.

He became a Nobel laureate at the age of 35 (having received the 1927 physics award jointly with Charles T. R. Wilson) in recognition of his discovery and interpretation of the elastic scattering of photons by electrons, a phenomenon that was henceforth known as the Compton effect. Dr. Compton was appointed professor of physics at the University of Chicago in 1923 and he remained at Chicago until the end of World War II. During the 1930's he was most actively engaged in cosmic-ray studies. In 1940 he was named dean of physical sciences and chairman of the Physics Department at Chicago, and in 1942 he also became director of the wartime Manhattan District's Plutonium Research Project which had its headquarters at the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago. His own heavy involvements in the nation's atomic energy program are described fully in his book, *Atomic Quest, A Personal Narrative*, which was published in 1956.

Dr. Compton was an honored member of some forty or more scientific and professional organizations, in-



Arthur H. Compton

cluding the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the Optical Society of America. In addition to the Nobel Prize he received more than twenty medals and other prizes during his career, and he was the recipient of twenty-five honorary degrees from universities all over the world.

N. Henry Black, emeritus assistant professor of physics at Harvard University, died on December 3. His age was 87. Prof. Black was born in Putney, Vt., and received his education at Harvard, graduating in 1896 and earning his master's degree in 1906. He subsequently spent a year at the University of Berlin (1912-13) and a year at Cambridge University (1930-31).

Prof. Black began his teaching career in 1896 as an instructor at St. George's School in Newport, R. I., and two years later became a member of the teaching staff in a New Hampshire high school. In 1900 he accepted an appointment as master of physics and chemistry at the Roxbury Latin School, a post which he held for the next 24 years. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1924 as an assistant professor of education. Eight years later, he received an appointment to teach in the Harvard Physics Department, and he remained a member of the physics faculty until his retirement in 1940. Prof. Black was a member of the American Physical Society.

Marvin Slater, supervisor of the experimental physics group at Combustion Engineering's critical experiment facilities in Windsor, Conn., died on February 7 from injuries received in an automobile accident. Dr. Slater, who was 37 at the time of his death, received his doctorate in physics at Yale University in 1951. Prior to joining Combustion Engineering in 1956, Dr. Slater was a staff member of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He was a member of the American Physical Society.