

OBITUARIES

Gioacchino Failla, senior physicist emeritus of the Radiological Physics Division of Argonne National Laboratory, died in an automobile collision on December 15, 1961. He was 70 years of age.

Dr. Failla was a native of Castelbuono, Italy, and attended Columbia University, graduating as an electrical engineer in 1915 and receiving his MA there two years later. In 1923, he was awarded a doctorate of science in physics by the University of Paris. In the years from 1915 to 1942 he served as a physicist at Memorial Hospital in New York City. In 1943 he accepted an appointment as professor of radiology at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons and as director of the University's Radiological Research Laboratory. He was named emeritus professor at Columbia in 1960, after which he joined the Radiological Physics Division at Argonne.

Dr. Failla is credited with numerous research contributions in the form of devices still in use for the treatment of cancer by radium, radon, and x rays. He developed new methods of dosage measurement for radiation treatment, and participated in the establishment of safety codes for persons working with radioactive materials. In the course of these activities, he served with numerous national and international organizations concerned with radiation physics. At the time of his death, he was vice chairman of the International Commission on Radiation Protection and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Biological Effects of Atomic Radiation, the National Committee on Radiation Protection, and various other advisory groups.

In November 1961, he was made the 13th honorary member of the Radiological Society of North America, which had awarded him its Gold Medal in 1947. His other honors include the Caldwell Medal and two Leonard Prizes of the American Roentgen Ray Society, the Janeway Medal of the American Radium Society, and the annual award of the American Cancer Society. A past president of the Radiation Research Society, Dr. Failla was also a fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the Optical Society of America.

Robert R. McMath, retired director of the McMath-Hulbert Observatory of the University of Michigan, died on January 2 at his home in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. He was 70 years old. A native of Detroit, he received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1913 and honorary DSc degrees from Wayne State University (1938) and Pennsylvania Military College (1941). The early part of his career was spent in business and industrial pursuits and by his 37th year he had become president of the Motors Metal Manufacturing Co. Shortly there-



Robert R. McMath

after, as a self-taught amateur, he developed a consuming interest in astronomy; his first astronomical paper was written when he was 40.

The McMath-Hulbert Observatory had its origin in an enthusiastic spare-time attempt by McMath, his father, and Judge H. S. Hulbert of Detroit to take motion pictures through a 10½-inch reflecting telescope which they installed in 1929 in their own private observatory. The success of their work led to contacts in the Department of Astronomy at the University of Michigan. The Observatory was given to the University in 1931 and McMath became its director. During the next decade McMath and his colleagues built a solid reputation based on their development of astronomical instrumentation and techniques and on the solar studies conducted at the Observatory. His association with Michigan's Astronomy Department became increasingly active, and in 1945 he was named to a professorship in the University. He retired as professor in 1960 and as director of the Observatory in 1961.

Dr. McMath received many honors for his work, particularly for his motion picture studies of the sun, and he was elected in 1952 as president of the American Astronomical Society. He was also a fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the Optical Society of America.

Robert L. Price, head of the Department of Physics at Joliet Junior College, died on March 19 at his home in Joliet, Ill. He was 65.

Born in Prescott, Wisc., he graduated from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., where he served for two years as an assistant in the Physics Department prior to his graduation in 1918. After a year as an assistant in physics at the University of Wisconsin, he returned to Hamline as physics instructor and acting head of the Department. He received his master's degree in 1924 from the University of California, where he served as a teaching fellow, and later in that year he was appointed head of the Physics Department at Joliet Junior College. A Robert L. Price Loan Fund has been established at the College in his memory.

Mr. Price was a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers.