OBITUARIES

Mervyn A. Ellison

Mervyn A. Ellison, professor of astronomy at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and a specialist in the field of solar physics, died in Dunsink, Ireland, on September 12. Dr. Ellison, who was 54, had been director of the Dunsink Observatory for five years prior to his death. The son of an astronomer (his father, W. F. A. Ellison, was director of the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland), Dr. Ellison was educated at Trinity College in Dublin, where he received his bachelor's and doctoral degrees.

In 1947, he became an astronomer on the staff of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, where he served as principal scientific officer. He remained in Edinburgh until 1958, when he returned to Ireland as head of the Dunsink Observatory.

Oliver J. Lee

Oliver J. Lee, professor emeritus of astronomy and former chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, died on January 13 at the age of 82 in Santa Cruz, Calif. He had lived in Santa Cruz since his retirement in 1947.

Dr. Lee was born in Montevideo, Minn., and was educated at the University of Minnesota, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1907. He continued his graduate studies at the University of Chicago, receiving his master's degree in 1911 and his PhD in astronomy in 1913. While at Chicago, he worked in the University's Yerkes Observatory, and after completing his studies he remained there for a number of years as a member of the staff. He joined Northwestern's Dearborn Observatory as an assistant professor of astronomy in 1928 and became its director in 1929, a post which he held until his retirement. He was named to a full professorship at Northwestern in 1935.

In 1930, Dr. Lee proposed that the moon may have been torn from what is now the basin of the Pacific Ocean. He observed that the longitudes of the earth's magnetic poles roughly define the boundaries of the Pacific, and speculated that if the moon were really torn from the Pacific, enough of the heavier magnetic elements may have been torn away at the same time to fix the position of the magnetic poles. He took more than two thousand photographs of the asteroid Eros in 1931 when it passed near the earth, thus gaining valuable information for studies involving the solar parallax.

Dr. Lee was a member of the American Astronomical Society and a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Peter Pringsheim

Peter Pringsheim, a pioneer in luminescence research and in his later years an authority on color centers in alkali halides, died on November 20 in Antwerp, Belgium, where he had lived for the nine years following his retirement from Argonne National Laboratory.

Professor Pringsheim was born in Munich on March 19, 1881. He received his PhD in physics under the tutelage of Roentgen at the University of Munich, in 1906, and continued his studies, first at the University of Göttingen and then at Cambridge University. He returned to Germany in 1908 and joined the staff of the University of Berlin, where he held various faculty positions. For a number of years he served as full professor at this institution. In his early years in Berlin, Robert Pohl and James Franck also belonged to the younger members of the faculty of the University of Berlin. A scientific cooperation and lifelong friendship with these two developed at that time.

In 1933, Professor Pringsheim left Germany because of the Nazis and joined the staff of the University of Brussels as professor of physics, where

Peter Pringsheim

he remained until 1940. In 1941, he came to the United States as a visiting professor, first at the University of California for one year and then at the University of Chicago for two years. Between 1944 and 1946, he was director of scientific research at the Ray Control Company in Pasadena and then returned to the University of Chicago as a visiting professor. He was a member of the staff of the Argonne National Laboratory from 1947 until 1954 when he retired from active research to live in Antwerp. He was a consultant to Argonne National Laboratory until his death.

Professor Pringsheim is best known for his work in the field of fluorescence and phosphorescence, on which subject he has published about one hundred papers and several sections in *Handbuch der Physik*, and has authored several books, including one of the most comprehensive reference works on luminescence in the literature. He was also interested in the photoelectric effect and, in addition to carrying out research in this field, he was a co-author (with R. W. Pohl) of a book concerning photoelectric phenomena. In his later years, Professor Pringsheim became well known for his outstanding investigations of color-center phenomena in the alkali halides and other crystals.