

OBITUARIES

Warren Kimball Green

Warren Kimball Green, professor emeritus of astronomy at Amherst College and former director of the Amherst College Observatory, died in Falmouth, Mass., on February 4. He was 73 years old.

Professor Green, who lived in Wellfleet, Mass., after his retirement from Amherst in 1956, was born in Salem, Mass. He received his AB degree in 1913 and his AM degree in 1914 from Harvard College. While studying for his master's degree, he was an instructor in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1917, he received his PhD from the University of California, where he held a Martin Kellogg fellowship. After serving as a lieutenant in the Aviation Section of the US Army Signal Corps during World War I, he spent two years at Yale University as an instructor in physics. In 1921, he joined the Amherst faculty as an instructor and director of the College Observatory. He was appointed professor in 1926.

A member of the American Astronomical Society, Professor Green was the author of the astronomy and navigation sections of Van Nostrand's *Scientific Encyclopedia*. He also contributed to the *International Dictionary of Physics and Electronics* and to the *International Dictionary of Applied Mathematics*.

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener, professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on March 18 in Sweden at the age of 69. He was visiting in Stockholm, where he was to have lectured at the Swedish Royal Academy.

Professor Wiener's interests ranged over many fields of philosophy, pure and applied mathematics, and linguistics, but he was known most widely for his contributions to communication theory and for his work in "cybernetics"—a term which he coined to describe the underlying features common to automatic control and machine communication, on the one

hand, and to the human nervous system, on the other. He was deeply concerned with the social and intellectual effects of automation and was the author of many scholarly and popular works on the theory and significance of automated devices.

Professor Wiener was born in Columbia, Mo., on November 26, 1894. He was the son of Harvard's first professor of Slavonic languages. At the age of 11, he graduated from the public high school at Ayer, Mass., and went on to Tufts College, where he earned his AB in 1909. After studying at Cornell and Harvard Universities, he received his PhD in mathematical logic from Harvard in 1913, at the age of 19. He spent the next two years as a traveling fellow at Göttingen and Columbia and then returned to Harvard as an assistant in philosophy and docent-lecturer. During the first world war, Dr. Wiener served as a civilian computer at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

In 1919, he became an instructor in mathematics at MIT. He was named assistant professor five years later, associate professor in 1929, and full professor in 1932. He retired in 1960 with the title of emeritus institute professor and emeritus professor. During his career he had served as a Guggenheim Fellow, as an exchange professor at Brown University, and as a visiting professor at Tsing Hua University in China. Earlier this year, Professor Wiener was one of five scientists to receive the National Medal of Science from President Johnson.

Theodore A. Smits

Theodore A. Smits, deputy chairman and associate professor of the Brooklyn College Physics Department and director of the College's Weinrich Observatory, died on January 13 at the age of 65. He had been associated with the College since its establishment more than three decades ago.

Born in Brooklyn, N. Y., he received a BSc degree, in 1920, from the City College of New York and an

AM degree, in 1927, from Columbia University. He studied as a graduate student and served as an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania from 1920 to 1924, after which he was an instructor at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and Lehigh University. He joined the City College faculty in 1925, and remained there until 1930 when he became an instructor at Brooklyn College. In 1949, he was promoted to the rank of assistant professor, and, in 1959, to the rank of associate professor. Professor Smits also served at Brooklyn as an instructor of astronomy and as a member of the Advisory Council of the College's School of General Studies.

William S. Webb

William S. Webb, a physicist and an archaeologist, died at his home in Lexington, Ky., on February 16 at the age of 82. A former president of the American Association of Physics Teachers, Professor Webb had been associated with the University of Kentucky since 1901, where he served both as head of the Department of Physics and head of the Department of Anthropology. He retired from both posts in 1954.

Born in Greendale, Ky., Professor Webb studied at the University of Kentucky, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1901 and his master's degree in 1902. He joined the University's faculty in 1905 as an assistant in physics and became a full professor and head of the Department in 1919. In 1948, he was named distinguished professor, the University's highest faculty rating.

While still teaching at Kentucky, Professor Webb served in 1934 and 1936 as a consultant and senior archaeologist to the Tennessee Valley Authority. He was also a member of the Committee for Basic Needs in American Archaeology and chairman of the National Research Council's Committee on the Recovery of Archaeological Remains.

Professor Webb was a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers, of which he was president in 1952, a fellow of the Society of Archaeologists, and a member of the American Physical Society.