

OBITUARIES

L. B. Aldrich

L. B. Aldrich, former director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, died on February 11 at the age of 80. He had been associated with the Smithsonian Institution for 47 years.

He was born in Milwaukee and educated at the University of Wisconsin, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1907 and a master's degree in 1909. In 1908, he became an assistant in solar radiation at the Smithsonian's Mount Wilson Observatory and later assumed the same post in the Institution's Astrophysical Observatory. From 1923 to 1925, he headed the Smithsonian station in Montezuma, Chile. He was appointed assistant director of the Astrophysical Observatory in 1930 and was promoted to director fifteen years later. He retired from that post in 1955.

Mr. Aldrich's research interests included solar radiation, cloud reflection, and sky brightness. He was a member of the Optical Society of America and the Geophysical Union.

Thomas D. Cope

Thomas D. Cope, professor emeritus of physics at the University of Pennsylvania, died on December 13. He was 83 years old.

Dr. Cope was born in East Bradley Township in Pennsylvania and was graduated in 1903 from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1906, he became an instructor in physics at the University and was promoted to assistant professor in 1913. Two years later he received a doctoral degree in physics from the University. He was promoted to professor in 1922 and retired thirty years later. During his student days, he spent a year studying at the University of Berlin, and, in World War I, took a leave of absence from Pennsylvania to serve as a captain in the US Army Signal Corps and Air Service at Langley Field.

Dr. Cope was a member of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics

Teachers. In 1937, he served as secretary of the AAPT, and from 1943 to 1946, he was the AAPT's representative to the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics. His research interests included mechanics, acoustics, and history of science.

Edwin B. Wilson

Edwin B. Wilson, a mathematician specializing in biostatistics who once served as chairman of the Department of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died in Boston on December 28. He was 85.

Professor Wilson was born in Hartford, Conn., and studied at Yale University, where he received his PhD in mathematics in 1901. In 1907, after having taught for several years at Yale, he joined the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an associate professor of mathematics. He was promoted to professor in 1911, and, six years later, was also named professor of physics and head of MIT's Department of Physics. During World War I, he helped develop a program of research and instruction in aeronautics at MIT. In 1922, he joined the faculty of the then newly established Harvard School of Public Health, where he remained until his retirement in 1945 as professor emeritus.

Professor Wilson was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and had served as its vice president from 1949 to 1953 and as editor of its published Proceedings since 1914. He also served on the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. Last year he received the US Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

John A. Tobin, S.J.

John A. Tobin, S.J., professor and former chairman of the Department of Physics at Boston College, died in Boston on January 25 at the age of 70.

Father Tobin was born in Boston and educated at Woodstock College in

Maryland, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1917 and a master's degree in 1918. He spent the next four years teaching physics at Boston College after which he pursued his studies in theology. After being ordained a priest in 1925, he joined the faculty of Fordham University as professor of physics and chairman of the Department. He remained at Fordham until 1929 when he returned to Boston College with the same appointments. He was awarded a PhD in physics in 1931 by the Gregorian University in Rome and continued to teach general physics to undergraduates and nuclear physics to graduate students at Boston until 1954. During the second world war, he also taught physics in the US Army Specialized Training Program at the College. Since 1954, Father Tobin had turned his teaching interests to law and theology.

He was a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

R. A. Gibbons and L. H. Reber

Robert A. Gibbons and Lawrence H. Reber, physicists in the Thermonuclear Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, died on February 27 in a sailboat accident on Melton Hill Lake near Oak Ridge, Tenn. Both were members of the American Physical Society.

Mr. Gibbons, who was 34 years old, was born in Harrisonburg, Va. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1952 from Randolph-Macon College and pursued graduate studies in physics at Duke University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Tennessee. After two years on the staff of Operations Research, Inc., he joined ORNL's Thermonuclear Division in 1958.

Dr. Reber, who was 28 years old at the time of his death, was born in Hershey, Pa. He received a BA degree in 1959 from Franklin and Marshall College and a PhD in nuclear physics in 1963 from the University of Pittsburgh, where he also served on the physics faculty. Later in that year, he joined ORNL.