

man with a gentle sense of humor, and was known as a strong proponent of international amity among scientists. Those who knew him feel the loss of a personal friend, as great as the loss of his service to science.

Edwin M. McMillan
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Roswell Clifton Gibbs

A past president of both the Optical Society of America and the American Association of Physics Teachers, Roswell Clifton Gibbs, died on 4 Oct. in Dunn Loring, Va. Gibbs, who was 88, had also represented the two societies on the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics.

Born in Hume, N.Y., Gibbs attended the public schools there and in Pike, N.Y. He received three degrees in physics from Cornell University—his PhD was awarded in 1910—and then joined its physics faculty. He retired in 1946 as chairman of the department. For the year 1927 he served as acting dean of Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences.

Gibbs' retirement was an active one. That same year he moved to Washington, D.C., where he had been appointed chairman of the division of mathematical and physical sciences of the National Research Council. A few years later he assumed an additional position as chairman of the advisory committee to the Army Office of Ordnance Research. From the mid-fifties until 1961 he was consultant to the NRC's Nuclear Data Project and supervisor of its exchange-visitor program. For several years he coedited the *Directory of Nuclear Data Tabulations*.

Gibbs was a fellow of the American Physical Society, the Optical Society of America and the American Association of Physics Teachers. A vice president (1935-37) and president (1937-39) of the OSA, he held the same positions with the AAPT in 1942 and from 1944-46. He represented the OSA on the American Institute of Physics Governing Board from 1940 to 1946 and then the AAPT until 1949. In 1945 he was vice president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

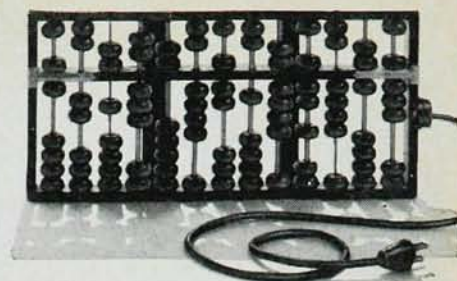
A spectroscopist, Gibbs had special interests in luminescence, absorption spectra of organic compounds in solution, extreme ultraviolet spectra of isoelectronic sequences, multiple and hyperfine structure of spectra, fine structure of lines in spectra of hydrogen and deuterium, and determination of the charge-to-mass ratio of the electron from the interval between the hydrogen and deuterium alpha lines.

Thomas A. Read

A physicist long associated with metal science and metallurgical education, Thomas A. Read, died of a heart ailment on 11 Sept. at the age of 53. He had been Professor and Head of the Department of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana, since 1954.

Read was born in Montclair, N.J. and received his undergraduate education at Columbia University, with a year in Munich at the Technische Hochschule. His doctorate in physics was from Columbia in 1940. He was a Westinghouse Research Fellow from 1939-41 in the group of promising young men assembled by E. U. Condon, at Frankford Arsenal (1941-47) in charge of the metal physics section and physicist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1947-48) before joining the metallurgy faculty at the Columbia School of Mines, where his father, a noted mining educator, had earlier been a faculty member and executive officer.

Read was well known for his earliest work, internal-friction studies of dislocation behavior, which opened a field of investigation now widely exploited. His major interest after 1948 was the crystallography of phase transformations in solids, in which he was a leading authority and made extensive theoretical and experimental contributions. He also contributed to a variety of problems dealing with deformation and defects and held several patents concerned with vibration measurements. At Illinois, he devoted much effort to the affairs of the department, while it underwent an order-of-magnitude growth in graduate study and research under his leadership. Active in the Institute of Metals Division of the American Institute of Mining and



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