

OBITUARIES

Georg von Hevesy

The winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry for 1943, Georg von Hevesy, died on 5 July in Freiburg, West Germany, at the age of 80. He won the prize for his pioneer work in the use of radioactive tracers.

Von Hevesy was born in Budapest and attended the Universities of Budapest and Freiburg. He worked with Fritz Haber for a time, and then



MC GRAW-HILL BOOK CO., C 1966
MODERN MEN OF SCIENCE

VON HEVESY

took a fellowship to study at Manchester with Ernest Rutherford. After 1912, he served on the faculties at Budapest, Copenhagen and Freiburg. Although he is best remembered for his work with radioactive isotopes, von Hevesy's first contribution to science was in the declining field of "new elements." By 1923, the year he isolated number 72, the periodic table was firmly based on a theoretical and experimental structure provided by Niels Bohr and the x-ray studies of Henry Moseley. Bohr suggested that the "hole" in the table might be filled by investigating the ores containing zirconium, just above 72 in the periodic table. Von Hevesy and a colleague found hafnium in January of 1923, and its uniqueness was quickly verified by using Moseley's x-ray analysis techniques. In the same year,

he performed his first application of radioactive tracers, which involved treating plants with an isotope of lead and then observing the subsequent absorption and distribution. The work caused no great stir at the time; more than 20 years and World War II passed before its immense importance to the life and other sciences was fully recognized. His Nobel Prize came while he was living as a refugee professor at the University of Stockholm. He was awarded the Atoms for Peace Prize in 1959.

Robert Methuen Petrie

The director of Canada's Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Robert Petrie, died on 8 April, shortly before his 60th birthday. He had been associated with the observatory for more than 40 years.

Petrie came to Victoria, B.C., from St Andrews, Scotland, as a young boy. After undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia, he went to the University of Michigan, where he received his doctorate in 1932. He served as an instructor in astronomy at Michigan until 1935 and then returned to Victoria to become astronomer at the Dominion Observatory. In 1951 he was appointed director of the observatory. While still a high school student, Petrie was encouraged by John Plaskett to help with the work at the still-young observatory, and like Plaskett, his work came to center around determination of the radial velocities of stars for the study of stellar motions. His early research papers show an interest in instrumentation and he pioneered the development of advanced equipment at Victoria. Much of his work involved the spectrophotometry of *B* stars, and one 25-year program at the observatory shows that their average radial velocities at various galactic longitudes are in good agreement with Jan Oort's theory of galactic rotation.

Petrie was a member of the American Astronomical Society and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

MATERIALS RESEARCH

Are you interested in conventional and unconventional methods of measuring fractional micro inches?

Are you interested in the fundamentals and applications of precision mechanical properties and dimensional instability?

Do you have an MS or PhD (or equivalent) in Metallurgy or Physics?

An opening at Battelle with excellent growth opportunity exists in this expanding area.

Write to Mr. L. G. Hill

BATTELLE

MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

COLUMBUS LABORATORIES

505 King Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43201

Several opportunities exist in other fields at Battelle. Write and tell us of your qualifications.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

SOLID STATE PHYSICIST PHYSICAL METALLURGIST

The Corporate Applied Research Group of Globe-Union Inc. has two vacancies at the research scientist level. This group does materials research in areas related to divisional product lines: switches, capacitors, potentiometers, integrated circuits and electro-chemical batteries.

These research positions will be concerned with the broad areas of materials science dealing with metals and non-metals such as plastics, ceramics and glasses. Of particular interest will be the electronic and electro-chemical characteristics of these materials.

We are interested in candidates with an advanced degree and an interest in materials research related to electronic devices and electro-chemical systems.

Here is an opportunity to work in an all-new facility on Milwaukee's beautiful north side. Your inquiry, with resume, will receive our most careful and prompt attention. Write E. Boelk, Professional Placement.

GLOBE- UNION INC.

900 E. Keefe Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"