

the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. It is unfortunate that no major university in the US took advantage of the great opportunity to add this great man to its faculty. Stern's stay in Pittsburgh was not a happy one, and he went into premature retirement at a time when his powers were still great.

His personality did not lend itself to intimacy. A bachelor, he lived alone, but was not what one would call a "loner." Although he cherished his privacy, he could also be excellent company, highly cultivated, liberal, and very much aware of what was happening in the world. Stern was one of the antistuffy generation of German professors who observed with a mixture of amusement and contempt the pomposity of their predecessors. This is not to suggest that they had gone very far down the road to the informality of the current American style. He was a passionate reader of newspapers but shunned publicity of any kind. A candid-camera picture of Stern would show him either buying or reading a newspaper. Somewhat surprisingly he was an avid devotee of the cinema, although he needed Pauli to remind him of what picture he had already seen. It is perhaps symbolic that he was finally stricken in a movie theatre.

Every German professor had his own well known eccentricity that was

cherished by his colleagues; he in turn was expected to live up to this reputation. Stern's was a love of luxurious hotels, good food and first-class railroad accommodation. We always knew at what time he would arrive from his holidays by looking up the best train. He avoided walking when he could ride. From his laboratory to the restaurant that we frequented for lunch was a matter of about four or five blocks, an easy walk for the rest of us. But Stern, only 39 or 40, always took the street car although it involved a transfer to another line.

Never in robust health, Stern was inclined a bit to hypochondria, but nevertheless he spent long hours in the laboratory. His manipulative skills were only fair, and his assistants often felt that progress would improve if he devoted more time to writing. On the other hand he was very inventive, ingenious and bold in overcoming experimental difficulties. Although not unaware of his own great contributions, he was generous in his evaluation of the work of others. He was open to new ideas both in theory and in experimental techniques, as one would expect from one who had a long association with Einstein.

As I look back on the last 30 years or more, I feel extremely regretful that Stern's scientific personality did not make its proper mark on generations of American graduate students. His qualities of physical insight into basic theoretical questions were rare. He

valued experiment not only for the direct result but also for style, the "Witz," the clever and ingenious stratagem or invention that has the quality of grace and beauty that link the researcher to the artist rather than to the craftsman. In this day of vast machines, highly organized researches and a widening gulf between theory and research, the qualities that were so great in Stern must assume a greater importance if physics is to remain an adventure of the human spirit.

ISIDOR I. RABI

King, Head of Purdue Dept. Of Physics, Dies at 45

Richard W. King, head of the Purdue University physics department, died after heart surgery on 12 Aug. at St. Mary's Hospital, Mayo Clinic. He was 45 years old.

King had been a Purdue physics faculty member since 1955 and a full professor since 1961. His primary research interest was in nuclear physics, most recently in the theory of elementary particles. He had been a consultant to various federal agencies and to industry. Before joining the Purdue faculty he was a nuclear physicist with Nuclear Development Associates, White Plains, N. Y. and the National Research Council-National Academy of Sciences.

Science Writing Award Goes To Kip S. Thorne of Cal Tech

The 1969 winner of the American Institute of Physics-US Steel Foundation Science Writing Award is Kip S. Thorne, associate professor of theoretical physics at Cal Tech. He



THORNE

is the first scientist to be named winner of this prize, which is offered to "stimulate distinguished reporting and writing of advances in physics and astronomy." H. William Koch, director of AIP, was scheduled to present the award to Thorne at the annual meeting of society officers and Corporate Associates of the AIP at The Rocke-

feller University on 30 Sept. He will receive a check for \$1500, a citation and a symbol of the award.

Thorne won the award for his article on "The Death of a Star," which appeared in the 1968 edition of *Science Year*, published in Chicago by the Field Enterprises Educational Corp.

Recent changes in the physics department of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, are: Max E. Caspari has accepted the position of chairman; Ole Hansen, a visiting professor last year, has been appointed a full professor; A. Brooks Harris and Gino Segre have been promoted to associate professor; William E. Stephens, acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences last year, has been appointed to that position; and Enos E.

Witmer, a faculty member since 1928, was appointed Emeritus associate professor.

Luke W. Mo, formerly at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, is now assistant professor of physics at the University of Chicago.

Gordon B. Gaines has been named chief of electronic materials and devices research at Battelle Memorial Institute.

Leland Haworth, retired director of the National Science Foundation, has joined Associated Universities, Inc as special assistant to the president and special consultant to the director of Brookhaven National Laboratory. Haworth was originally with BNL in 1947 as assistant director of special