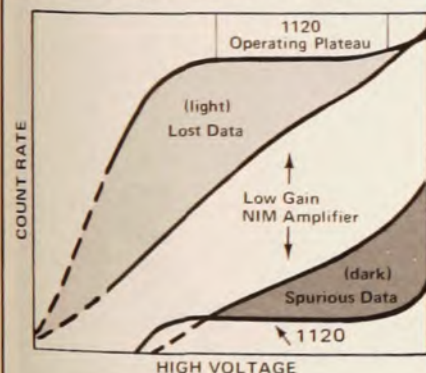


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we hear that

electromagnetic transitions, her attention soon turned to physical chemistry, and she wrote several important papers partly on molecular and partly on solid-state physics. Many if not most of these articles were written in collaboration, several of them with Karl F. Herzfeld and a much quoted one on the excited states of the benzene molecule in collaboration with A. L. Sklar. The fine book on statistical mechanics, written by the Mayer couple, also originated in this period.

Because of the secrecy surrounding the work on nuclear energy, very little was published during the period of her work at Columbia and the SAM laboratories. In Chicago, Mayer's interest soon turned to nuclear physics; her first article on the subject, in collaboration with Robert G. Sachs, is on a subject that remains puzzling to this day—the binding energy of H_3 . Her attention soon focused, however, on heavier nuclei, and she proposed the spin-orbit coupling shell model which brought her, in 1963, the Nobel Prize. Her work, however, continued unabated after this discovery, and she wrote more than a dozen articles on nuclear physics—mostly on problems of shell theory and of beta decay. Throughout the years she was also an avid gardener, and her collection of orchids won much admiration.

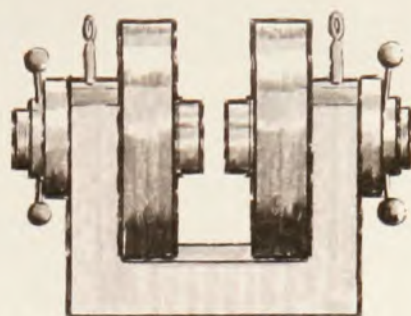
Maria G. Mayer was the recipient of many honors. In addition to the Nobel Prize mentioned before, she had half a dozen honorary degrees, was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Heidelberg, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was also, of course, a fellow of the American Physical Society. I had the impression, nevertheless, that she treasured most the friendship of her colleagues, associates and other physicists.

EUGENE P. WIGNER
Louisiana State University

William Lynch

William Lynch, professor emeritus of Fordham University, died on 15 February at the age of 79.

An authority on deep-focus earthquakes and the analysis of earthquake waves, Lynch was associated with Fordham from 1937 until his retirement in 1961. At Fordham he also served as assistant director of the seismological laboratory. After his retirement he taught at Mount St. Vincent College for six years. Before coming to Fordham, Lynch had taught at New York University, from which he had received his BA, MS and PhD degrees.



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