obituaries

Reginald J. Stephenson

Reginald J. Stephenson, the former Harn Professor of Physics at the College of Wooster in Ohio, died on 2 January in St Johns, Newfoundland. He was 69 years old.

A native of England, Stephenson was educated at the University of London, the University of Reading and the University of Chicago, where he completed his doctorate in 1933. He taught on the faculty of the University of Chicago (1934–45) before going to the College of Wooster as a professor of physics. During 1944–45 he was a member of the Chicago group that worked on the Manhattan Project, and he was an official observer of the atomic tests on Bikini atoll in 1946.

Most of Stephenson's career was dedicated to teaching, and he gained a reputation for his thoroughness and clarity in the field. Two of his most well known publications are textbooks —*Exploring in Physics*, which was published by the University of Chicago Press in 1934 and used for approximately 30 years without revision, and *Mechanics and Properties of Matter*, first published by John Wiley and Sons in 1952.

Egon Bretscher

Egon Bretscher, formerly head of the Nuclear Physics Division at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, UK, died on 16 April, in Switzerland, where he was born in 1901.

Bretscher, trained in both chemistry and physics, came to work at the Cavendish Laboratory not long before Lord Rutherford's death. He was one of the pioneers of research in nuclear fission, and the first in England to foresee the future importance of plutonium.

With the outbreak of World War II, Bretscher joined the Tube Alloys Project at Cambridge, working on plutonium-separation chemistry and on the measurement of fission cross sections. Later he became one of the leaders of the British mission at Los Alamos (1944–46), where for a while he worked with Enrico Fermi. At that time his careful measurements of low-energy nuclear cross sections became important both in fusion research and in astrophysics.

In 1947 he became a Division Head at Harwell, a position that he held until his retirement in 1966. It was largely through Bretscher's efforts that a strong program in basic nuclear research was developed and maintained at Harwell, in addition to the more applied responsibilities of his division.

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Abe Pepinsky

Abe Pepinsky, a professional musician, psychologist and physicist, died on 31 January 1973. He was 84 years old.

Pepinsky devoted the first portion of his multiple career to music. At the University of Minnesota (1913–42) he taught musicology and music education and directed the University Symphony Orchestra and the Collegium Musicum. As a result of his interest in the physical basis of music, Pepinsky began to study physics in the early 1930's, completing a PhD in psychophysiological acoustics at the University of Iowa in 1939.

In 1943 Pepinsky was made head of the departmet of psychology at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. After retiring from that position in 1954, he continued to work for several more years. He was chief psychologist at the Norristown State Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania during 1954–56, and he served as director of admissions at the Philadelphia Musical Academy from 1956 to 1967.

Hans Albert Einstein

Hans Albert Einstein, professor emeritus of hydraulics at the University of California, Berkeley, died on 26 July while attending a conference at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. He was 69.

Einstein, the son of the late Albert Einstein, was a physicist and engineering authority, specializing in the movement of sediment by streams, the intersection of shock waves, and tidal flows. Completing his PhD in civil engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in 1937, Einstein took a position as a hydraulic engineer with the Soil Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture (1938–47). In 1947 he became an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. He was named professor in 1953 and in 1971, professor emeritus. Einstein was a member of the American Geophysical Union. □