computing machine. He stressed the so-called X-α method for calculating correlation (or exchange) energies, which are particularly recalcitrant in computations by means of the self-consistent field (see PHYSICS TODAY October 1974, page 34). He continued these interests when he became a research professor at the University of Florida in 1964. He held this position until retiring in June.

His many honors include the National Medal of Science (1971) and the Irving Langmuir Prize of The American Physical Society (1967). His research publications span more than 50 years; they included some 100 papers, a number of comprehensive books and his scientific autobiography, *Molecules and Solid State*.

His last book on the X-α method had just been completed at the time of his death. Alas, this volume will be a posthumous one.

JOHN H. VAN VLECK
Harvard University

Robert G. Lye

Robert G. Lye, corporate scientist at Martin Marietta Laboratories, Baltimore, Md., died 7 July at the age of 49.

He received his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1957 and was a member of the technical staff of Union Carbide Corp's Parma Technical Center in Cleveland, Ohio, 1956–65.

At Martin Marietta he became head of the metal physics group in 1968, and associate director and head of the physics department in 1969. In these positions he had responsibility for research and development programs on infrared detectors, refractory materials, remote sensing of atmospheric pollutants, and materials for heat shields. He was appointed corporate scientist in 1974 and was a member of the APS.

Hamilton M. Jeffers

Hamilton M. Jeffers, astronomer emeritus of Lick Observatory, died 28 May at the age of 82. He received his doctorate from the University of California–Berkeley in 1921 and, the same year, joined the State University of Iowa department of astronomy.

As a graduate student Jeffers had studied at the Lick Observatory—in 1924 he accepted a position there and remained on the staff until his retirement in 1961. During his career he conducted an extensive program of astrometric observations of comets and faint minor planets and made numerous contributions to double-star astronomy, most notably his collaboration on the index catalog of double-star observations.

A newly verified asteroid, which was discovered by Arnold R. Klemola of Lick Observatory, was named after Jeffers in February. □