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obituaries

chosen as a scintillator because it could be obtained from local drugstores in the form of moth flakes, and the gamma source was literally scratched from the walls, in the form of paint containing uranium.

Demonstration of the counter in 1947 was followed by an invitation to the United States. After some months with the Army Signal Corps in Fort Monmouth, where he developed coincidence methods using scintillators, Kallmann accepted a professorship at New York University. There he established the Radiation and Solid State Laboratory. Over the next twenty years he did seminal work on liquid scintillators with Milton Furst, investigated photoconductivity with Bernard Kramer, exciton and carrier dynamics in organic crystals with Martin Pope, and related subjects with a host of students.

As with many who, as they grow older, begin to feel nostalgia for their country of birth, Kallmann's pronouncements against Germany became tempered. Perhaps, too, it was easier to leave the scene entirely than to linger in the wings when compelled, at 72, to retire from his thriving laboratory. In 1968 he and his wife left for Munich, where he was given space in the Technical University. He continued to work, and at 80 invented a detector he claimed was superior to the scintillation counter.

Kallmann's students love to tell stories about him the way a parent relates a child's bright sayings—with pride and affection. He was held in deep affection, and he had a good deal of the child about him: in his zest, in his brash pronouncements and in his deep involvements. A national magazine features a series entitled, "The Most Unforgettable Character I Ever Met," for many, in the best sense of the phrase, that was Kallmann.

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Matatiah Theodore Gehatia

Matatiah T. Gehatia, a polymer physicist for 13 years in the polymer branch of the Air Force Materials Laboratory in Ohio, died 8 April at the age of 66.

Gehatia was born in Plotsk (Warsaw), Poland, to parents from prominent Jewish rabbinical dynasties. He received his early university education in Warsaw. In the early 1930's he gathered together about fifty underprivileged youths and emigrated to Palestine to escape rising harassment. There he founded the Kibbutz Neve Eytan in the Bet Shean Valley. During these early years he studied at the Hebrew University and became an educator. While serving as a teacher and a principal, he continued his education in languages at the Hebrew



GEHATIA

Seminary in Jerusalem, where he received the equivalent of a master's degree in rabbinical studies.

After an interruption by World War II, he expanded his studies to mathematics and theoretical physics under the mathematician Racah. The ensuing period was again interrupted by war, this time for the independence of his homeland. He was active in the Jewish underground movement known as the "Stern Group" or LEHI. After establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, he resumed his studies. He received his MS degree in 1951 from Hebrew University, where he worked in theoretical spectroscopy and quantum mechanics. He joined the Weizman Institute of Science, department of biophysics, where he worked in mathematics and the physical properties of synthetic polymers, beginning what became his life's work in diffusion and sedimentation theory of ultracentrifugation. In 1955 he studied as a research fellow at the University of Uppsala, working with Kai Pedersen. He returned to Israel to receive his PhD from Hebrew University in 1956, and then moved to Germany, where he attended J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt and received his *Doctor Habilitus* degree in 1961.

In 1962 he left academia to engage in polymer properties research in the Air Force Materials Laboratory, polymer branch, where he continued the development of theories for sedimentation and molecular weight distribution determination through ultracentrifugation.

Edgar William Woolard

Edgar William Woolard, director of the Nautical Almanac Office of the US Naval Observatory from January 1958 to January 1963, died on 17 June in Kingman, Arizona.

Woolard was the author of an internationally adopted theory of nutation, which was published in *Astronomical Papers for*

the *American Ephemeris* in 1953 with the title "Theory of the Rotation of the Earth around its Center of Mass." With G.M. Clemence, Woolard wrote the definitive text *Spherical Astronomy*. He was also the author of a number of other scientific papers.

Woolard was born in El Paso, Texas on 6 January 1899. He received AB, MA and PhD degrees from George Washington University. After serving in the US Army during World War I, he worked at the US Weather Bureau from 1919 to 1928 and 1934 to 1945. From 1928 to 1934 he was on the faculty at George Washington University. He worked in the Nautical Almanac Office from 1945 until 1963, serving as assistant director from 1946 until he became director in 1958. He received the Superior Civilian Service Award upon his retirement.

Robert T. Webber

Robert T. Webber, former director of the State Department's atomic-energy affairs office, died 12 September 1977. He received his PhD from Yale University and taught physics there during 1943-49. From 1949 to 1957, he was head of the cryogenics branch at the Naval Research Laboratory. He then spent three years in London as deputy scientific director of the Office of Naval Research. Webber was chief scientist in the Tokyo liaison office of the National Science Foundation in 1960-62. He began working for the State Department in 1962 as scientific attache in Tel Aviv. He held a similar post in Tokyo in the late 1960's before becoming deputy director of the State Department's office of space, atmospheric and marine sciences, a position he held until 1973. He was director of the office of atomic energy affairs from 1973 until his retirement in 1975.

Wilbur M. Franklin Jr

Wilbur M. Franklin, Jr, Professor of physics at Kent University, died on 10 April at the age of 45.

Franklin was born in Berlin, Germany where his father was a theology student at the University of Berlin. His doctorate in solid-state science was awarded in 1964 by Syracuse University. Prior to receiving his PhD he earned a BA in biology from the College of Wooster, a BS in metallurgy from Case Institute of Technology and a masters degree in metallurgical engineering from Yale University. He also did postdoctoral work at the University of Virginia for two years before coming to Kent State as an assistant professor in 1966. He was promoted to associate professor in 1969 and full professor in 1976. Franklin was probably best known for his theoretical work on diffusion in solids and liquid crystals. □

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