we hear that

Wolfe, vice president and general manager of the nuclear fuel and services division, General Electric Co, San Jose, Cal., and Chia-Shun Yih, Timoshenko Professor of Fluid Mechanics at the University of Michigan.

Among the new foreign associates are: Sir Charles Frank, Henry Overton Wills Professor Emeritus at the University of Bristol, Bristol, UK; Stanley G. Mason, professor of chemistry, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and John R. A. Pearson, professor of chemical engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, UK.

Maradudin receives Humboldt Award

Alexei A. Maradudin, professor of physics and dean of the Graduate Division at the University of California, Irvine, has won a Humboldt Senior US Scientist Award in recognition of his accomplishments in research and teaching. The award, which is sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, will enable Maradudin to spend a year doing research at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics in Stuttgart. The award program was established to help foster scientific cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the US.

Maradudin's research includes work on lattice dynamics, the electronic properties of solids and statistical mechanics. He received a bachelor's degree in 1953 and a master's degree in 1954 from Stanford University. Bristol University granted him a doctoral degree in 1956. Maradudin worked at the University of Maryland and Westinghouse Research Laboratories before joining the Irvine faculty in 1965.

Chaim Pekeris to be RAS Gold Medalist

The Royal Astronomical Society will award its Gold Medal to Chaim L. Pekeris, Distinguished Institute Professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel. The Society will recognize Pekeris's contributions in several branches of geophysics and in astronomy. These include studies of the convective motions within the Earth, investigations of the propagation of acoustic waves as applied to seismology, calculations relating to elastic vibration of the Earth and studies of oceanic tides.

Pekeris was educated at MIT, earning a BS in 1929 and a DSc in meteorology four years later. After leaving MIT Pekeris held fellowships at both the Rockefeller Foundation and Cambridge University. He returned to MIT in 1936 as an associate in geophysics. In 1941 Pekeris became a member of the scientific staff of the Division of War Research at Columbia University. He remained at Columbia as director of the mathematical physics group and then as professor of applied mathematics until 1973 when he moved to the Weizmann Institute.

Brandeis University has named **Stanley Deser** to be the first holder of its newly-endowed Nathan S. Ancell Chair of Physics.

Mark Kac, professor at the Rockefeller University, has agreed to become a fellow of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

The American Nuclear Society has honored two scientists with awards. **John W. Cleland,** a physicist in the solid-state division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, won the Radiation Industry Award for his "pioneering research on the neutron transmutation doping of semiconductors. . ." The Mark Mills Award for outstanding graduate work in nuclear science or engineering was presented to **Richard D. Lawrence,** a visiting research assistant professor at the University of Illinois.

John V. Evans, an assistant director of the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, has been appointed director of the Haystack Observatory, Tyngsboro, Mass. and a professor in the MIT department of meteorology.

Richard H. Bolt, retired chairman of the board, Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc, has been named the 1980 recipient of the New England Award. The award is presented by the Engineering Society of New England to honor a resident of New England "who merits recognition for outstanding engineering and societal achievements."

Two physicists formerly with the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology, **D. Cabib** and **Robert A. Buckwald,** have become co-directors of a new optical company, C. I. Ltd, in Ramat Yishai, Israel.

Cornell University has named **Robert Rathbun Wilson** Professor Emeritus of Physics.

Burleigh Instruments Inc, Fishers, N.Y., has appointed **William G. Clark** sales manager. Clark has previously held marketing positions at Spectra Physics and Candela, Inc.

obituaries

Erich Hückel

Erich Hückel, professor of theoretical physics at the Philipps-University of Marburg, Federal Republic of Germany, died on 16 February 1980. He was 83 years old.

Hückel and his two brothers were the sons of a Swabian physician who moved his family to Göttingen, where the boys attended school. In their father's private laboratory they were introduced to physics, chemistry and astronomy.

Shortly before the outbreak of the First World War Hückel began his studies of physics and mathematics at the University of Göttingen. During his army service he worked in Ludwig Prandtl's laboratory for aerodynamics in Göttingen. In 1920 Hückel, working at Peter Debye's institute, completed his doctoral thesis on the application of the Debye–Scherrer x-ray diffraction method to liquid crystals. During the following year, he assisted David Hilbert in preparing his lectures and in 1922 became Max Born's assistant. Together they published a paper on rotational-vibrational spectra of multi-atomic molecules. To relax from the lengthy perturbation calculations needed for this paper, Hückel would cycle around Göttingen with Annemarie Zsigmondy, the elder of the two highly gifted daughters of Richard Zsigmondy, the Nobel Prize-winning colloid chemist. Hückel soon became engaged, but before consenting to a marriage, his prospective father-in-law required that he complete his *Habilitation*, the prerequisite for a career in German universities.

In the fall of 1922 Hückel became Debye's assistant at the Swiss Institute of Technology in Zurich. There the famous joint papers on strong electrolytes were written and appeared in 1923 and 1924.

HÜCKEL (1934)