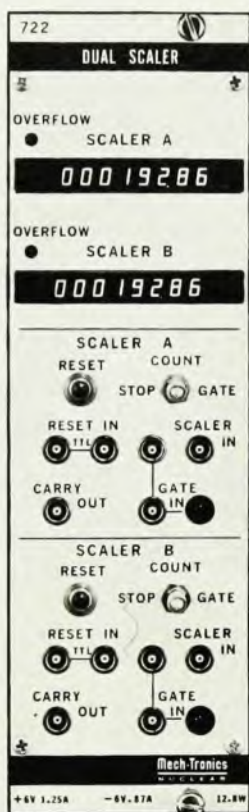


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ogy; and *The Reptile Ear: Its Structure and Function*, in which he documents the anatomical features of the reptile ear based on his investigations of their microphonic responses.

in brief

Robert Gilmore has left the Institute for Defense Analyses (Arlington, Virginia) to become professor of physics and atmospheric science at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Srinivasa Venugopalan has joined the faculty of SUNY, Binghamton as asso-

ciate professor of physics. He was formerly at Purdue and the Raman Research Institute in India.

Jean-Claude Diels, formerly at the Center for Laser Studies at the University of Southern California, has been named professor of physics at North Texas State University (Denton). Rogers W. Redding has been appointed physics department chairman.

Mary Beth Stearns and **Ignatius S. T. Tsong** have joined the physics department at Arizona State University (Tempe) as full professors. **Joseph R. Comfort** has been appointed associate professor.

obituaries

Jan Burgers

J. M. Burgers died last summer at age 86. He was professor emeritus at the Institute for Physical Science and Technology at the University of Maryland at the end of a scientific career that extended over 65 years. He was active in scientific research until a year before his death. His most recent book, *The Nonlinear Diffusion Equation*, was published when he was 79.

Burgers and his brother, the crystallographer W. G. Burgers, were the sons of a self-educated amateur scientist who gave public lectures on physics in Arnhem and assembled a large collection of scientific instruments.

In 1914, Burgers entered the University of Leiden, where he came to know Hendrik Lorentz, Kamerlingh Onnes, Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr, and was part of a group of students of P. T. Ehrenfest that included D. Coster, H. A. Kramers and D. J. Struik. Burgers, the first of Ehrenfest's students in Leiden to complete a PhD thesis (1918), wrote his dissertation on the Rutherford-Bohr model of the atom, completing Ehrenfest's work on the connection between the Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization rules and the adiabatic invariants of classical mechanics.

Before receiving his PhD degree, Burgers accepted an appointment as professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Shipbuilding at the Technical University in Delft. While this appointment brought to the department someone with a firm scientific approach to the foundations of hydrodynamics it offered Burgers the attraction of starting a new line of work. In his characteristically modest account of his early years in Delft for the *Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics* (Vol. 7, 1975), Burgers wrote that one of his reasons for accepting the position in

Delft was his fear of "having insufficient phantasy for making fruitful advances in Bohr's theory." While at Delft, Burgers quickly became one of the world's leading authorities on fluid dynamics. His first work was devoted to Oseen's theory of flow at low Reynolds numbers and its connection with Ludwig Prandtl's work on airfoils. In 1921 he met Theodore von Kármán, with whom he had a long and close professional and personal association that stimulated his work on turbulence. In this field he was a pioneer in using the hot wire anemometer to probe velocity fluctuations in turbulent flows. His work on the theory of turbulence was devoted in large part to developing a statistical theory of turbulence and to treating theoretical models of turbulent flow. In this connection he studied what has now become known as the Burgers equation, which is a one-dimensional, nonlinear partial differential equation similar in struc-

BURGERS

