



H. A. Kramers.
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H. A. Kramers

H. A. Kramers, Dutch theoretical physicist who in 1946 served as technical representative for the Netherlands on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, died on April 24th in Leyden at the age of 57. Born in Rotterdam, Professor Kramers received a doctor's degree from the University of Leyden in 1919 and for several years thereafter he taught and carried on research at the University of Copenhagen. From 1926 to 1934 Professor Kramers was professor in theoretical physics at Utrecht University and from 1934 held the same position at Leyden University where he was director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics. When appointed to the United Nations post in 1946, he was serving also as professor extraordinary at the Technical University of Delft. Professor Kramers was the organizer of Netherlandic-Norwegian cooperation in the field of atomic research, which resulted in a jointly operated atomic pile in Kjell, now being built. His writings on atomic physics have been translated into English, German, and Spanish. He was a member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Academy of Sciences of the Netherlands, and an honorary member of the American Physical Society. He served as president of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics in 1946.

Howard Blakeslee

Howard W. Blakeslee, science editor for The Associated Press for the past twenty-four years, died on May 2nd of coronary thrombosis at his home in Port Washington, N. Y. He was seventy-two years of age. Mr. Blakeslee received a number of awards during his career as a science writer, among them the Pulitzer Prize (1937) and the George Westinghouse Science Writing Award (1946). He studied at the University of Michigan, which in 1935 awarded him an honorary master of science degree. Mr. Blakeslee had returned shortly before his death from Nevada, where he had been among the reporters who witnessed the atomic bomb tests at Yucca Flat.



Allen V. Astin, who has served as acting director of the National Bureau of Standards since the resignation of E. U. Condon, was nominated by President Truman on May 20th to be the Bureau's director.

Hans A. Bethe, Cornell University professor of physics, gave a series of four special lectures on the properties of mesons at the California Institute of Technology early in May.

The division of applied science of Harvard University has announced that special courses will be given by three well-known visiting lecturers during the next fall term. **Walter Brattain** of the Bell Telephone Laboratories is scheduled to present a course involving the use of transistors in electrical circuits. In addition, he will conduct jointly with **Harvey Brooks** of the division of applied science a seminar course on the questions of solid-state physics underlying the behavior of the transistor. **Sydney Goldstein**, vice president of the College of Technology in Haifa, Israel, will give an advanced course in hydro- and aerodynamics, and **W. Duncan Rannie**, associate professor of mechanical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, will give two half-courses on the theory of heat transfer.

William D. Coolidge, former vice president and director of research of the General Electric Company, was presented with the first K. C. Li Medal and Award of Columbia University on May 20th for his "meritorious achievement in advancing the science of tungsten".

Edward M. Corson, former Fulbright exchange professor in natural philosophy at Edinburgh, has been appointed adjunct research professor in the school of graduate studies of New York University and staff consultant in psychiatric research at New York State Psychiatric Institute.

B. M. Currie, physics professor at the University of Saskatchewan, has recently been appointed head of the University's department of physics. Two other Saskatchewan researchers, **Leon Katz** of the physics department and **Peter Scherk** of the mathematics department, have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada.

Thomas D. Cope and **Melvin R. Harkins**, senior members of the department of physics of the University of Pennsylvania, are retiring as professors emeriti this year. Dr. Cope, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1903 and received his doctor's degree