



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

there in 1915, was an instructor at the University beginning in 1906 and has served as professor since 1922. In recent years he has written extensively on topics in the history of physics. Dr. Harkins graduated from Western Maryland College in 1905 and received his doctor's degree in 1911. He began his teaching career in 1906 and was promoted to the grade of professor in 1924. His outstanding interest has been in undergraduate instruction and he has had a distinguished career as a teacher at the University of Pennsylvania.

The department of physics at Pennsylvania has also announced that **Julius Halpern** has been promoted to the grade of full professor and **Herbert B. Callen**, **Alfred K. Mann**, and **B. Roswell Russell** to associate professorships. **William F. Love** and **Sherman Frankel** have been named assistant professors. **Vernon Hughes**, formerly an instructor at Columbia University, has accepted an appointment as assistant professor in the Pennsylvania physics department.

George Russell Harrison, dean of science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and chairman of the American Institute of Physics, received the honorary degree of doctor of science from St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, at the university's 96th commencement exercises on June 8th.

Alvin T. Jacques, one of the three new branch chiefs recently assigned to laboratory positions at the Naval Ordnance Laboratories, will head the acoustics systems branch of NOL's acoustic research division.

Robert J. Maurer of the University of Illinois is giving a six-week course in theory of the solid state at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, as part of the regular summer session which began on June 23rd.

Physicists who have recently joined the staffs of the AEC installations operated by Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Co. include **Roy L. McCullough** from the U. S. Rubber Co., **Howard V. Heacker**, formerly with Sears, Roebuck & Co., **Paul E. F. Thurlow**, from Westinghouse Atomic Power Division, and **Phillip McK. Wood**, of E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.

The following physicists have recently been elected members of the National Academy of Sciences: **Norman F. Ramsey, Jr.**, Harvard University; **Emilio Segrè**, University of California; **Robert Serber**, Columbia University; **Victor F. Weisskopf**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and **John Wheeler**, Princeton University.

John A. Sauer has recently been named to head the department of physics at Pennsylvania State College. The appointment, to become effective July 1, 1952, will fill the vacancy that resulted from the appointment of **H. K. Schilling** to the position of dean of the graduate school in 1950. Dr. Sauer will leave in August for Europe where he will present a technical paper before the 8th International Congress of Applied Mechanics meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. While in Europe Dr. Sauer will visit leading universities to study their programs in the field of physics.

Meetings

Operations Research Society

Morse Elected President of New Group

On May 26th a group of seventy-five scientists from university, industrial, and military establishments in the United States assembled at Columbia University's Arden House in Harriman, N. Y. to organize the **Operations Research Society of America**. The first meeting of the new society was held the following day.

From experience gained during the last war, when operations research teams in this country and in Britain systematically applied scientific methods and techniques of analysis to a broad category of problems involving the relative behavior of men, machines, and environment, it has been widely accepted that operations research methods might profitably be applied to the peacetime problems of government and industry as well as to military problems. The formation of the **Operations Research Society of America** marks it as the first professional organization of scientists devoted to promoting the application of operations research on this side of the Atlantic. Several years ago a group of British scientists founded a similar society, the **Operational Research Club of London**, which has reportedly had an active existence.

The charter members of the ORSA include specialists in physics, mathematics, statistics, chemistry, biology, economics, and other fields. **Philip M. Morse**, professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was elected first president of the society. **Robert F. Rinehart** of Case Institute of Technology is vice president, **John B. Lathrop** of Arthur D. Little, Inc. is secretary, and **Alfred N. Watson** of the Curtis Publishing Company is treasurer.

At the May 27th meeting, **Bernard Koopman**, chairman of Columbia's mathematics department, discussed examples of partially solved and unsolved problems arising in operations research, showing how conventional mathematics and its theoretical extensions can be used in dealing with such practical difficulties as congestion in air terminals, queuing in cafeteria lines, and overloaded switches in telephone systems. Professor Koopman's talk highlighted the importance of practical and scientific developments in such areas as information theory and analytical probability. **Russell L. Ackoff** of Case Institute of Technology discussed new methods for halving costs of such statistical work as consumer surveys and product life tests. Dr. Ackoff spoke of new laws designed to yield economical procedures, and also presented several little-known process