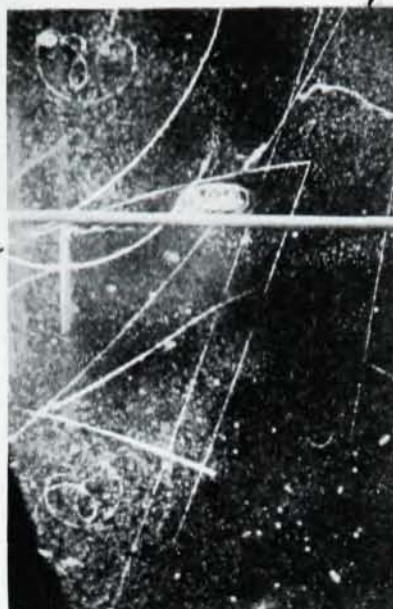




p

 π^- 

p

The first V particle identified at the Cosmotron appears above the sweeping field electrode in the center of the picture, at the point indicated by the arrow. Two stereo views are shown. The sweeping field electrode is actually closer to the camera than the sensitive region, and the tracks pass behind it, not through it.

two kinds of V^0 's. Much less is known about the rarer $V^\pm$'s, but there are probably two or more kinds of them as well.

Before the observations at Brookhaven were made a search for V^0 particles had been carried out at the University of Chicago synchrocyclotron, the highest energy machine previously available. The results were inconclusive, although some events were recorded in emulsions that may have been V^0 decays.

The events recorded at Brookhaven closely resemble the V^0 -particle decays observed in cosmic rays. The V^0 's were produced in lead or steel by the neutron beam emerging at 0° from a carbon target bombarded by 2.25 Bev protons and were detected in a hydrogen filled cloud chamber with a magnetic field of 11000 Gauss. No $V^\pm$ particles have been observed as yet. So far in two cases the momenta of both secondary particles could be measured and the event analyzed in some detail. One of these is shown in the accompanying illustration. In each case the density of ionization and momentum of the negative secondary indicate that it is a meson, while those of the positive secondary give a slight indication that it is a proton. If it is assumed that the decay products are $p + \pi^-$ in each case, the Q values are calculated to be 39 ± 16 and 37 ± 8 Mev in excellent agreement with the accepted figure of 37 Mev for such a decay process. Consequently it seems fairly certain that these events represent the decay of a V^0 to form $p + \pi^-$ in exactly the same way as those observed in cosmic rays. (The details of measurements on these events have been published in the June 15th issue of *The Physical Review*.)

Under the present conditions of operation V^0 par-

ticles are observed at a rate of about 1 per 1000 cloud chamber photographs at the Cosmotron. Work is continuing to secure additional examples.

Strauss Named AEC Chairman

President's Adviser Succeeds Dean

Lewis L. Strauss, President Eisenhower's adviser on atomic energy matters, has been selected as the new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Mr. Strauss, a New York financier and rear admiral in the United States Naval Reserve, was an original member of the Commission, having been appointed to the AEC in 1946. He returned to private business in 1950. Gordon Dean, the previous chairman of the Commission, declared that it was his intention to retire some months ago, but delayed the date of his resignation until June 30th to give the President time to select a new chairman.

Mr. Strauss is understood to have been an early proponent of hydrogen bomb development by the AEC and to have been noted during his earlier term as a commissioner for the great emphasis he placed upon security problems. He was vigorously opposed to a proposal to export radioisotopes for use by a military research unit in Norway some years ago and was the sole dissenter in the Commission's 4-to-1 decision that the isotopes be sent.

Russian Physics Reports

NSF-Columbia Translation Project

The National Science Foundation has entered into a contract with the Slavic Language Department of Co-

lumbia University, New York, to translate approximately one thousand pages of current Russian research reports in physics during the coming year. The Columbia project is part of a larger program undertaken by the Foundation to make it easier for American scientists to keep informed of current scientific developments abroad.

In the course of preparing translations the staff will also compile files of new or unusual Russian terms in physics and related sciences as the basis for an improved Russian-English scientific glossary. During the past year the Columbia group undertook preparation of a similar glossary of terms used in metallurgy.

Limited numbers of the completed translations will be printed at the facilities maintained at Oak Ridge by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. In addition to the official distribution to Federal agencies interested in the material, copies will be distributed to some forty depository libraries throughout the country which hold complete files of AEC unclassified reports. Copies may also be purchased for a nominal charge at the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. Titles will be announced in the *Monthly List of Russian Accessions*, issued by the Library of Congress. The translations concerning nuclear physics will also be announced in *Nuclear Science Abstracts*.

The first group of translations will include physics reports from the January 1953 issues of *Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR* (Reports of the Academy of Science of the USSR).

Physics Summer School

Organized at Lake Como, Italy

The Italian Physical Society, with the cooperation of the Education Ministry and the National Research Council of Italy, has established an international school of physics, of which the first sessions will be held this summer (August 19th to September 12th) at Varenna, Lake Como, in the Villa Monastero. The summer term will consider questions relating to the detection of elementary particles, with special reference to cosmic radiation. The school is under the direction of Giam-pietro Puppi, professor of theoretical physics at the University of Bologna.

A group of lectures on cloud chambers will be given by P. M. S. Blackett of the University of Manchester; C. F. Powell of the University of Bristol will discuss nuclear emulsions; and H. Halfvén of the Institute of Technology at Stockholm will give a series of lectures on the primary cosmic radiation. Seminars and conferences (in English or French) on questions relating to the central theme will also be scheduled during the twenty-five days of the summer term. It is expected that the total attendance will not exceed twenty or twenty-five students this year. Those wishing additional information about the school should direct their letters to Professor G. Puppi, Società Italiana di Fisica, Via Saldini 50, Milano, Italy.



A Letter to the Editor

Needle Hunting in Waco

During the period of recovery of the city of Waco, Texas, from the tornado of May 11, 1953 in which much property and many lives were lost, it became apparent that a radium needle used in medical treatment was lost in the worst part of the devastated area. The members of our department located the needle valued at \$5000 under debris which had been moved many times during the search for bodies.

The search ended when Mr. Arthur W. Smith, who does summer work at Oak Ridge, and Dr. Robert G. Packard, shown in the picture searching with a counter, located the needle after five loads of debris were lifted out of the basement of the demolished building by a steam shovel.

We were amazed that physicists could be useful in this way during such a crisis. Perhaps this is an indication that all of us as physicists should prepare ourselves to be of service during such catastrophes.

Herbert D. Schwetman, Chairman
Department of Physics
Baylor University

G-E and Science

Basic Research Expansion Planned

The General Electric Company in the next few years plans to increase its scientific staff working on fundamental research by fifty percent (from a present force of 1000 to one of 1500), according to G-E President