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Eugene C. Crittenden, former associate director of the National Bureau of Standards and an internationally known expert on standards of physical measurement, died of cancer on March 28th at Garfield Hospital in Washington, D. C. He was 75 years of age and had been ill for several months. Dr. Crittenden had retired at the end of 1950, but he continued to serve as a consultant to the Bureau up to the time of his illness.

A former president of the Optical Society of America (1933), Dr. Crittenden is perhaps best known for his achievements in the development and adoption of electrical and photometric standards. As vice president of the International Commission on Illumination (1939–48) and as president of its US National Committee from 1928 to 1935, he played a major role in the establishment of modern photometric units, standards, and methods of measurement which culminated in the international adoption of the "candela" in 1948. As US representative on the International Committee on Weights and Measures from 1946 to 1954, its vice chairman from 1950 to 1954, and as chief of the Bureau's Electrical Division for many years, he was instrumental in securing the adoption of the so-called absolute electrical units which now provide a basis for all electrical measurements made throughout the world.

A native of Oswayo, Pa., Dr. Crittenden attended Cornell University, received the bachelor's degree in 1905, and remained there as instructor and graduate student until he joined the NBS photometry laboratory as assistant physicist in 1909. He was named chief of the electrical division in 1921 and continued in that position until 1946, the year in which Case Institute of Technology awarded him the honorary DSc as "a devoted servant of the public, exponent of precise measurement, and international authority on the standards of science and industry". In 1933 he was made assistant director of NBS and placed in charge of the Bureau's over-all research and testing activities. In 1946 the title was changed to associate director and he served in that capacity on a full-time basis until his retirement.

A fellow of both the Physical and Optical Societies, he was active in the affairs of the American Institute of Physics and served from 1934 to 1941 as a member of the Institute's Board of Governors. He was an associate editor of the *Review of Scientific Instruments* from 1934 to 1936. A member of numerous other organizations, he was president of the Illuminating Engineering Society in 1925 and was awarded the IES Gold Medal in 1946.

His son, Eugene C. Crittenden, Jr., is professor of physics at the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.