

Edwin F. Carpenter FREE



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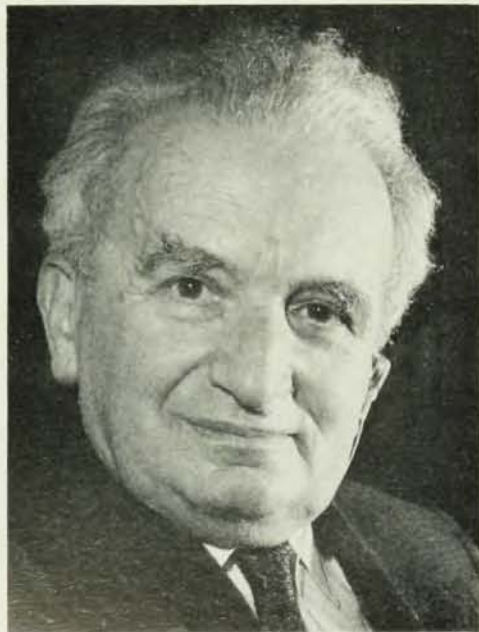
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OBITUARIES

Theodore von Kármán, internationally known authority on aerodynamics and hydrodynamics, died in Aachen, Germany, on May 6, while on a visit to the city where he had formerly lived and worked for seventeen years prior to 1930. At the time of his death, which came less than a week before his 82nd birthday, Dr. von Kármán was chairman of the Advisory Group on Aeronautical Research and Development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and emeritus professor of aeronautics at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, where he had resided for more than three decades.

Born in Budapest as Szöllöskislaki Kármán Todor, he received a mechanical-engineering degree from the Royal Technical University of Budapest in 1902 and became an assistant professor there in the following year. In 1906, he went to Göttingen for further study. He earned his PhD in mechanics two years later, and he remained at Göttingen until 1912 in the capacity of privat dozent. It was during his Göttingen years that he brought forward his explanation of eddy formation in the wake of bodies moving in fluids, now known as the Kármán vortex. In 1912, his rising reputation was recognized by the German government with an appointment as a director of the newly formed Aeronautical Institute of the University of Aachen. However, his work there had hardly begun when he had to return to Austria-Hungary to answer a call to service as a lieutenant in the Dual Monarchy's infant air corps.



T. von Kármán

After the war, he returned to Aachen, and, under his direction, the institute became one of Europe's foremost research and instructional centers. In 1924, Dr. von Kármán helped found the International Congress of Applied Mechanics. Through this activity, he established a close relationship with the late Robert A. Millikan of the California Institute of Technology, and in 1926, when Daniel Guggenheim provided funds for a new aeronautical laboratory at Caltech, Dr. Millikan invited Dr. von Kármán to help plan it and to be its chief lecturer. For two years, Dr. von Kármán divided his time between Aachen and Caltech. In 1930, he accepted the directorship of the Guggenheim Laboratory and settled permanently in Pasadena.

In the ensuing years, Dr. von Kármán carried out numerous experiments with rocket fuels. The Air Force subsequently took notice of this work, and, when World War II broke out, provided support that enabled him to organize his informal group into the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. One of JPL's first developments was the "JATO" technique for the jet-assisted take-off of airplanes using small rockets as boosters. When no manufacturer would agree to build the JATO rockets, Dr. von Kármán and a few friends pooled some capital and formed a corporation to do it. The corporation is now known as Aerojet-General.

Dr. von Kármán retired from Caltech in 1949. In 1951, he became chairman of the NATO advisory group and thereafter spent much of his time on its affairs. During his long and distinguished career, he was the recipient of numerous medals and awards. The last such honor which he received was bestowed in February when he became the first recipient of the newly established National Medal for Science. A fellow of the American Physical Society, he also held membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society.

Edwin F. Carpenter, director of the Steward Observatory and professor of astronomy at the University of Arizona, died in Tucson on February 11. He was 64 years old.

A native of Boston, he received his AB degree from Harvard in 1922 and his AM the next year. In 1925, after earning a PhD at the University of California, he joined the faculty of the University of Arizona as an instructor. He was named assistant professor in 1927, associate professor in 1930, and professor in 1935. In 1930, he also became assistant director of the University's Steward Observatory. Eight years later, he succeeded the late A. E. Douglass as director of the observatory.

Dr. Carpenter's main research interests included the absorption of light in interstellar space and the nature

of galaxies. He was a member of the American Astronomical Society and of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Warren G. Smith, associate professor of physics at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., died of a heart attack on March 9 at the age of 37. A native of Defiance County, Ohio, he received his bachelor's degree from San Diego State College in 1952 and his doctorate in nuclear chemistry from the University of California in 1955. He then spent a year as a research associate at the University of California Radiation Laboratory and another in the same capacity at Indiana University.

In 1957, he joined the faculty of Purdue University as assistant professor of physics and was named associate professor four years later. Professor Smith was a member of the American Physical Society.

Ludwig Mayer, a physicist with the General Mills Electronics Group, died on February 11 in Minneapolis at the age of 52. Born in Germany, he received his MS at the Institute of Technology in Munich in 1936, and then joined the Allgemeine Elektrizitaetsgesellschaft in Berlin, where he worked on electron optics, image converters, and electron velocity modulation. In 1940 he became a member of the Radio and Radar Institute in Oberpfaffenhofen (near Munich) and, as head of the microwave-tube department, was in charge of magnetron and klystron development. He came to the United States in 1946 to work at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he began the development of the electron mirror microscope, a new step in electron microscopy. In 1955 he joined the General Mills Electronics Division and became manager of electron and surface-physics research.

A fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the German Electron Microscopy Society, his contributions to physical electronics included the invention of the reflex klystron and Curie-point writing on magnetic films.

Letter of Correction

In the obituary of Theodore H. Berlin, on p. 96 of the February 1963 issue, I find the following omission. The last three lines of the second paragraph* should read as follows:

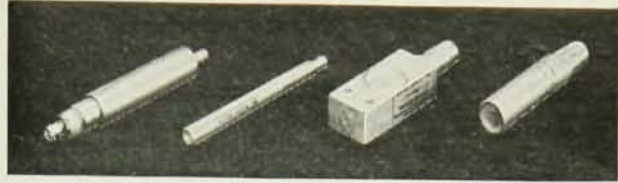
"While at Michigan he had studied under Professors Fajans and Uhlenbeck, and at the time of his death he cooperated with the former on a book on chemical binding, with the latter on a book on statistical physics."

As a matter of fact, his doctoral thesis "Quantisation and Electric Interaction in Diatomic Molecules" was performed in the Department of Chemistry under my direction.

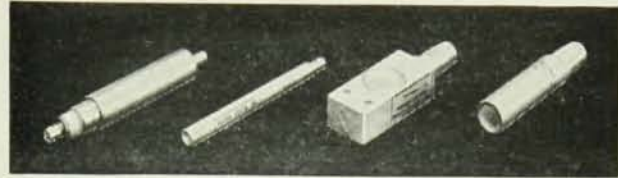
Kasimir Fajans, *Professor Emeritus*
University of Michigan

* The sentence in question read: "While at Michigan he had studied under Prof. Uhlenbeck, and at the time of his death the two were collaborating on a book on statistical physics."

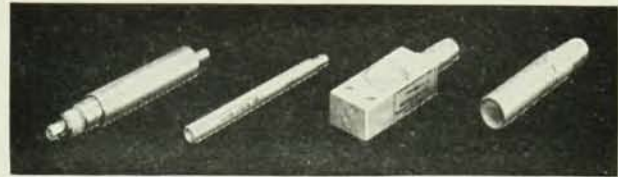
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