



Fig. 2. Tracks produced in pentane by a 2-BeV. proton beam. From Glaser, D. A., and Rahm, D. C., *Phys. Rev.*, **97**, 474 (1955)

90 microseconds after the transmission of the proton pulse. Bubbles produced by premature boiling around the top of the observation window have not interfered with the quality of the tracks in the middle of the chamber.

Prof. Luis Alvarez and his group at the University of California have concentrated on the development of the liquid-hydrogen bubble chambers, since this liquid presents a pure proton target. Already, using a 4-in. diameter chamber with a cycling time of only 4 sec., V events and π - μ -electron decays have been photographed, and chambers containing several gallons of liquid hydrogen and operating in a magnetic field are projected for use with the Berkeley bevatron.

¹ Glaser, D. A., *Phys. Rev.*, **87**, 665 (1952).

² Hildebrand, R. H., and Nagle, D. E., *Phys. Rev.*, **92**, 517 (1953).

³ Glaser, D. A., and Rahm, D. C., *Phys. Rev.*, **97**, 474 (1955).

OBITUARIES

Mr. J. S. Wilson

A FAMOUS controversy on the design of masonry dams is recalled by the death on May 20, at the age of seventy-nine, of Mr. John Sigismund Wilson. Doubts cast by Prof. Karl Pearson and one of his research students, L. W. Atcherley, on the validity of existing methods of designing such dams led to a decision by the Egyptian Government to postpone the proposed heightening of the Aswan Dam, after Sir Benjamin Baker, their consultant, had demonstrated the behaviour of models, made of stiff jelly. This decision caused widespread discussion and criticism, especially of the use of jelly to simulate masonry, and Wilson, who was then on Baker's staff, made further experiments, in conjunction with William Gore, using models of rubber, loaded to give the effect, to scale, of the density of masonry. By this means he was able to show that the method to which Pearson and Atcherley had taken exception was, in fact, in order; and, as is well known, the Aswan Dam was duly heightened.

The ingenuity displayed in the design of his model, the result of no mere guesswork but of logically pursued reasoning, was typical of Wilson's approach to the kind of problem in which, as a consulting engineer, he specialized—the sort which lies in the common ground between civil engineering and architecture. Born in Cairo on October 13, 1875, he was educated at St. Paul's School, London, and entered the City and Guilds (Engineering) College

(then the Central Technical College) in 1893 to take the course in civil and mechanical engineering. He qualified in 1896 and, after a short period in the office of a civil engineer, Burness Greig, entered that of Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker, the designers of the Forth Bridge and the Aswan Dam. Fowler died two years later, but Wilson remained with the firm, which had become Baker and Hurtzig, until shortly before the First World War, in the course of which he was associated with the design of directors for anti-aircraft guns. After the War he went into partnership with H. C. Booth (the

inventor of the vacuum cleaner) and C. W. Pettit, being concerned mainly with the design of bridges. Since 1932 he had been in practice on his own account, latterly in association with Mr. John Mason.

Wilson took an active part in the endeavours to prevent the demolition of the old Waterloo Bridge across the Thames and was honorary secretary of the conference which, in 1926, sought to preserve it; for which, and other work in the preservation of ancient buildings, the Royal Institute of British Architects elected him an honorary associate. He was a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, of the Royal Institution and of the Newcomen Society, and was serving on the Council of the last-named Society at the time of his death. He was also an active supporter of the British Association, being secretary of Section G (Engineering) in 1923, recorder during 1929–34 and president of the Section at the Norwich meeting in 1935. He was president of the Old Centralians, the association of former students of the Central Technical College, in 1933, and had received the distinction of Fellow of the College in 1929.

J. FOSTER PETREE

The Hon. Camilla Wedgwood

THE HON. CAMILLA HILDEGARDE WEDGWOOD, third daughter of the first Baron Wedgwood, died on May 17 in Australia. She was born on March 25, 1901. She received her university education at Bedford College, London, and at Newnham, specializing finally in anthropology, which she studied particularly under Dr. A. C. Haddon, to whom she always remained greatly attached. During 1926–27 she became an assistant lecturer in the Department of Social Studies at Bedford College. Then she went out to Australia, in and around which most of her future work lay. For Australia she formed a very great liking and performed much public service there. During 1928–29, as lecturer in anthropology in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney, and since 1936 as honorary lecturer, she taught students with sound scholarship and flashes of brilliant exposition. For some years after 1935 her great capacity and interest in students served her as principal of the Women's College at the University of Sydney—a post to which she brought freshness and originality, having great influence on the students under her charge.

Miss Wedgwood had always wished to undertake anthropological field research. During 1932–34 she held a fellowship from the Australian National Research Council, and worked on Manam, an island