



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

off the northern New Guinea coast. In this relatively isolated community she made a social study with special reference to the life of women and children and to the effects upon the local culture of contact with the culture of white people. She found this research attractive and published interesting material from it. She undertook a further shorter period of research in Nauru in 1935, at the invitation of the Administrator, again primarily to study culture change. When war came she volunteered her services and became a lieutenant-colonel in the Army Women's Services, attached to the Army Directorate of Research. Later she undertook work in Army education, and

after the close of the War specialized particularly in the training of education officers for the New Guinea Service, in a post which she held at the Australian School of Pacific Administration. Shortly before she died, her services to the cause of native education in New Guinea were recognized by the Government of the Commonwealth in naming a New Guinea girls' school after her.

Camilla Wedgwood was a cultured woman of striking appearance and many interests, vividly concerned with human problems. She had many friends, who will mourn her early death.

RAYMOND FIRTH

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. S. J. Davies

PROF. S. J. DAVIES has retired from the chair of mechanical engineering in King's College, London, and has been succeeded by Prof. L. J. Kastner, of the University College of Swansea (see *Nature*, 161, 1004; 1948). Prof. Davies was appointed to the chair at King's College in 1937. He was one of the distinguished band of engineers who came originally from H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth, where he gained a Whitworth Exhibition. During the First World War he was engaged on the inspection of aircraft engines and later was deputy works manager of the Clyde Engineering Co., Ltd. During 1920-26, he was lecturer in mechanical engineering in Armstrong (now King's) College, Newcastle upon Tyne. He then went to King's College, London, as reader, and in 1937 was appointed professor in succession to Prof. Gilbert Cook; and now, after eighteen years as professor, he has taken up his new appointment as dean of the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham (*Nature*, 174, 727; 1954). Prof. Davies is widely known for his researches on oil engines. He has twice been awarded the Herbert Akroyd Stuart Prize of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and has also received prizes from the Institution of Automobile Engineers and the Institute of Marine Engineers. In 1951 he was elected a Fellow of King's College, London.

Parasitology at Imperial College, London:

Prof. B. G. Peters

DR. B. G. PETERS, head of the Nematology Department of Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been appointed the first professor of parasitology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. From Bristol Grammar School he went to the University, where he graduated with first-class honours in zoology in 1925, and received his M.Sc. in 1927. During 1925-28 he was on the staff of the Institute of Agricultural Parasitology, St. Albans, first as a scholar of the Ministry of Agriculture and later as Grocers' Company research scholar. He obtained his Ph.D. of the University of London in 1928. When the Imperial Bureau of Agricultural Parasitology was started in 1929, he was its first deputy director and remained so until 1932. From then until 1936 he was demonstrator, later lecturer, in helminthology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and became a recognized teacher of the University in 1935. He returned to the Institute of Agricultural Parasitology in 1936

and, except for two years in Bomber Command Operational Research (1943-45), remained in that Department until, in 1947, it became the Nematology Department of Rothamsted. He succeeded Dr. T. Goodey as head of this Department in 1952. His early research dealt with the taxonomy and bionomics of the vinegar eelworm. Later he turned to the use of statistical methods in helminthological research, and his contributions in this subject have been fundamental in placing experimental helminthology on a sound basis. Since 1948 he has been studying the potato-root eelworm, *Heterodera rostochiensis*, and developing methods for laboratory assays and field-trials of nematocides.

Haskins Laboratories, Inc. : Dr. F. S. Cooper

DR. FRANKLIN S. COOPER has been elected president and director of research of Haskins Laboratories, Inc., of New York, to succeed Dr. Caryl P. Haskins, who has been appointed president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington as from January 1, 1956 (*Nature*, 174, 1172; 1954). Dr. Cooper was born in Robinson, Illinois, in 1908 and graduated from the University of Illinois. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1936 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was with the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company until he joined Haskins Laboratories in 1939, where he has been associate director of research. He was senior liaison officer of the Office of Scientific Research and Development during the Second World War, in charge of the exchange of scientific information with the Allies. He has served as consultant to the Secretary of Defense and to the Atomic Energy Commission of the United Nations. He is a member of various scientific and professional societies and of advisory committees of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and New York University, and is adjunct professor of acoustic phonetics at Columbia University. Haskins Laboratories is a non-profit scientific and educational foundation. Its effort has been in scientific research and research training in selected borderline fields.

Conference on the Effects of Nuclear Weapons

A CONFERENCE of scientists is to be held during August 3-5, under the auspices of the World Association of Parliamentarians for World Government, to discuss the nature and extent of the danger to mankind involved in experiments with nuclear weapons and their possible use in warfare. The meeting will take place in the County Hall, London.