

# Obituary

## Professor Erwin Meyer

WITH the death of Erwin Meyer on March 5 at Pontresina in Switzerland, international acoustics has lost its leading and most versatile worker. Born on July 21, 1899, at Königshütte, then part of Germany, Professor Meyer spent nearly half a century teaching and researching acoustics. Meyer studied mathematics and physics under Waitzmann and Lummer at the University of Breslau, where he gained his PhD in 1922 for work on the interaction of sound waves and resonating membranes. After spending two years as an assistant in Breslau, Meyer became a member of the scientific staff under Professor K. W. Wagner at the Postal Telegraph Communication Centre, Berlin, which was followed by his appointment in 1928 as a lecturer at the Technical University, Berlin-Charlottenberg. From 1929 to 1947 he was head of the acoustical department of the Heinrich-Hertz Institute, Berlin-Charlottenberg, and in 1947 he was appointed full professor in physics at the University of Göttingen, and director of the Third

Physical Institute which he himself founded.

For his outstanding contributions in many varied fields of acoustics Meyer received numerous honours. As early as 1933 he received the Gauss-Weber medal for outstanding achievements in electrical communications and was also awarded a honorary degree in engineering from the Technical University of Berlin. Subsequently in 1950 he became a member of the Academy of Sciences at Göttingen, which was followed in 1964 by the bestowal of the Wallace Clement Sabine Award of the Acoustical Society of America for his internationally recognized contributions to all aspects of architectural acoustics. During the course of his career Meyer designed numerous sound studios, theatres, opera houses, concert halls and multipurpose auditoria, and amongst the latter should be mentioned the new Festival Hall near Frankfurt, which is notable for having one of the largest electroacoustical systems for artificial reverberation, and has been praised by such eminent musicians as Yehudi Menuhin.

When the British Acoustical Society instituted its Rayleigh Medal Award in 1969 there was no hesitation in naming Erwin Meyer as its first recipient. For his address he chose the subject of wave absorbers, in which he introduced his oft-quoted analogy between electromagnetic microwaves and sound waves. These two disciplines have formed the basis of the teaching and research in the Dritter Physikalisches Institut. Before the Second World War Meyer gave some excellent lectures in experimental electroacoustics at the University of London, and after the war a strong bond of scientific cooperation between the Germans and the British, particularly in underwater acoustics, grew up, and Meyer was in receipt of British supporting funds for over twenty years.

Professor Meyer was a co-author of several acoustical books and at the time of his death he was working actively on the completion of the final volume of a set of four texts. He was co-founder and editor of *Akustische Zeitschrift*, but after the war he leaned towards an international journal and played a vital role in the establishment

(Continued from p. 145)

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of *Acustica*, of which he was a co-editor until his death.

Erwin Meyer's enthusiasm for his subject inspired the band of young research workers who gathered around him at Göttingen, and the achievements at the University and the Institute bear testimony to the fine spirit of cooperation and goodwill which existed between teacher and students. His genial nature and humour won him many friends in different lands, and he will be greatly missed both for his excellence as a scientist and as a very human individual.

## Announcements

### International Meetings

May 29–June 2, **Power from Radioisotopes** Madrid (OECD, Château de la Muette, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris 16, France).

June 1–2, **Influence of Amino-Acid Supply on Polynucleotide and Protein Metabolism**, Aberdeen (Executive Secretary, The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DP).

June 1–2, **Recent Developments in Vertebrate Smooth Muscle Physiology**, London (Executive Secretary, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG).

June 12–17, **Health Physics Society Annual Meeting**, Las Vegas (John S. Coogan, Environmental Protection Agency, Western Environmental Research Laboratory, PO Box 15027, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114, USA).

June 12–September 1, **Gordon Research Conferences**, New Hampshire (Alexander M. Cruickshank, Gordon Research Conferences, Pastore Chemical Laboratory, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 USA).

June 13–16, **Fluidics**, Uppsala (H. S. Stephens, British Hydromechanics Research Association, Cranfield, Bedford).

June 14–16, **Metabolism and Membrane Permeability of Erythrocytes, Thrombocytes and Leucocytes**, Vienna (Dr K. Moser, c/o Wiener Medizinische Akademie, Alserstrasse 4, 1090 Vienna, Austria).

June 18–23, **Clinical Chemistry**, Copenhagen (Eighth International Congress on Clinical Chemistry, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark).

June 19–20, **Moiré Fringe Technology**, East Kilbride (Conference Organizer, Birniehill Institute, National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow).

## Reports and Publications

not included in the Monthly Books Supplement

### Great Britain and Ireland

The Young Student's Laboratory Guide. By L. A. Redman. Pp. 28. (Lytham St. Annes: Spectrum Books Limited, 1972.) 12p net. [232]  
Medicines and the Patent System. Pp. 19. (London: The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, 162 Regent Street, 1972.) [242]  
University Grants Committee Annual Survey, Academic Year 1970–1971. Pp. 32. (Cmd 4893.) (London: HMSO, 1972.) 24p net. [252]  
Parkinson's Disease: a Booklet for Patients and Their Families. By R. B. Godwin-Austen. Pp. 8. (London: Parkinson's Disease Society of the UK, 36 Queens Road, SW19, 1971.) [252]  
Field Studies Council Annual Report 1970/1971. Pp. 44. (London: Field Studies Council, 1972.) [252]  
Royal Institute of Chemistry. Monographs for Teachers, No. 11: Industrial Chemistry—Organic. By D. M. Samuel. Second edition. Pp. v+142. (London: The Royal Institute of Chemistry, 1972.) £1.50. [252]  
Safeguarding the Environment. Pp. 28. (Birmingham: The University of Aston in Birmingham, 1972.) gratis. [252]  
Warren Spring Laboratory. Review 1970–71. Pp. 34. (Stevenage, Herts: Warren Spring Laboratory, 1972.) gratis. [252]  
National Museum of Wales. Sixty-fourth Annual Report 1970–71. Pp. 141. (Cardiff: National Museum of Wales, 1971.) [282]  
University of Edinburgh—Science Studies Unit. Second Report 1969–71. Pp. 16. (Edinburgh: The University, 1972.) [282]  
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. A: Mathematical and Physical Sciences. Vol. 272, No. 1219 (24 February, 1972): Rapid Force-Flux Transitions in Highly Porous Membranes. By P. Meares and K. R. Page. Pp. 1–46. (London: The Royal Society, 1972.) £1.20; \$3.35. [282]

Industry and Technology in the Eighteenth Century: Britain and France. By Professor J. R. Harris. (An Inaugural Lecture delivered in the University of Birmingham on 27th May, 1971.) Pp. 18. 25p. Aristotle's Theory and Milton's Practice: *Samson Agonistes*. By Professor B. R. Rees. (An Inaugural Lecture delivered in the University of Birmingham on 4th November, 1971.) Pp. 25. 25p. (Birmingham: The University, 1972.) [13]  
Department of Trade and Industry. Research and Development in Marine Technology. (St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Kent: Technology Report Centre, Department of Trade and Industry, 1972.) £1.50. [232]

### Other Countries

A Science Policy for Canada: Report of the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy. Vol. 2: Targets and Strategies for the Seventies. Pp. v+329–608. (Ottawa: Information Canada, 1972.) \$3. [232]  
Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. 146, Article 2: A Revision of the American Groupers: *Epinephelus* and Allied Genera. By C. Lavett Smith. Pp. 67–242. \$6. Vol. 146, Article 3: Tertiary Fossil Species of the Rhinotermitidae (Isoptera), Phylogeny of Genera, and Reciprocal Phylogeny of Associated Flagellata (Protozoa) and the Staphylinidae (Coleoptera). By Alfred E. Emerson. Pp. 243–304. \$2.50. (New York: American Museum of Natural History, 1971.) [232]  
National Research Council of Canada. Annual Report on Support of University Research 1970–71. Pp. xiv+467. (Ottawa: National Research Council of Canada, 1972.) \$2.50. [242]  
Institut Royal Météorologique de Belgique. Statistiques Quinquennales. Observations Aérogéologiques, Station d'Uccle, 1966–1970. Pp. 175. (Bruxelles: Institut Royal Météorologique de Belgique, 1971.) [252]  
Council of Europe. Council for Cultural Co-operation. Continued Education: a Study of the Education of Young European School Leavers During Their Last Years at School and Early Years of Work. By E. W. Sudale. Pp. 117. (Strasbourg: Council for Cultural Co-operation, Council of Europe, 1971.) [252]  
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FAO Forestry and Forest Products Studies, No. 17: Planning a Forest Inventory. By B. Husch. Pp. x+120. (Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; London: HMSO, 1971.) \$2.50; £1. [282]  
Norsk Polarinstittut. Arbok 1970. Pp. 302. (Oslo: Norsk Polarinstittut, 1972.) [282]  
Unesco, Paris. Science for Development: an Essay on the Origin and Organization of National Science Policies. By Jacques Spacy *et al.* Pp. 224. (Paris: Unesco, 1971.) 18 francs; £1.35; \$4.50. [282]

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