

obituary

S. Petterssen

SVERRE PETTERSSSEN, the outstanding meteorologist, died in London on December 31. He was 76.

Born in Norway, Petterssen served in the Norwegian Meteorological Service from 1924 to 1939 after graduating from Oslo University. In 1939 he became Professor of Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and came to England in 1942. During the war he was stationed at the Meteorological Office at Dunstable, establishing now standard techniques of upper air analysis. In recognition for his services, he was made CBE in 1948 and Commander of the Order of St Olaf in 1949.

After the war Petterssen returned to Norway, serving in the Norwegian Weather Forecasting Service until 1948, when he was appointed Director of Scientific Services of the US Air Force Weather Service. In 1952, he returned

to academic life as Professor of Meteorology at the University of Chicago. In the next ten years, he played a large part in the rapid expansion of research and education within government and academic institutions.

Petterssen's contributions to the theory of frontogenesis and convection, to the kinematics of weather systems and to the physics of fog were highly original, and led the way towards more quantitative methods of weather forecasting.

H. Heller

HANS HELLER, the distinguished endocrinologist, died on December 30 at the age of 70.

Born in Brno, Professor Heller studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge from 1929 to 1931, when he was

appointed to a post in pharmacology at the University of Vienna. He returned to England in 1935 to obtain medical qualifications at University College Hospital. He worked there as a Beit Fellow until 1941, when he took an appointment at Bristol University, becoming Professor of Pharmacology in 1949.

Heller was particularly famous for his investigations of the water balance effect of neurohypophysial hormones in amphibia, showing that the water-balance principle differed from that of mammals, later isolating the hormones from cod in 1959. His research into the nature of such hormones in other animals illustrated a pattern for the evolutionary development of the hormones.

From 1963 to 1974, he was editor of the *Journal of Endocrinology* and at the time of his death was chairman of the Society for Endocrinology.

announcements

Awards

New Year's Honours

Max Ferdinand Perutz has been made a Companion of Honour for services to molecular biology.

Knights Bachelor include: **Arthur Llewellyn Armitage**, vice-chancellor, Victoria University of Manchester; **Frederick Arthur Bishop**, Director-General, National Trust; **Harold Montague Finnieston**, FRS, chairman, British Steel Corporation; **Hugh Ford**, FRS, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology; **Ieuan Maddock**, FRS, chief scientist, Department of Industry; **Edward Eric Pochin**, lately director, MRC Department of Clinical Research.

Erik Erikson, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard University, has been awarded the **Mental Health Association Research Achievement Award** at the organisation's annual meeting in Washington.

Godfrey Hounsfield has been awarded the **Wilhelm Exner Medal**, a major Austrian award, for the invention of the EMI computerised X-ray brain scanner.

Appointments

Henry Francis Black has been appointed to a personal chair of mechanical engineering at Heriot-Watt University.

Miscellaneous

Mitchell Prize. The Mitchell Energy & Development Corporation, in association with the Club of Rome, is to make biennial awards for papers submitted on the problems inherent in the transition from growth to equilibrium of population, material consumption and energy use over the next 40 years. Application deadline for 1975 is February 28. For information contact: Limits to Growth '75, 5645 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

The Food and Drug Administration's OTC Panel is interested in receiving any unpublished data on foetal damage or loss associated with the maternal use of vaginal contraceptives or douches. For information, contact Elizabeth B. Connell, Food and Drug Administration Bureau of Drugs, Division of OTC Drug Evaluation (HFD-510), 5600

Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

The Moscows Seminar on Collective Phenomena will be held every Sunday at noon, on a broad range of scientific topics. For information, contact I. and V. Brailovsky, pr. Vernadskogo 99, korp(building) No. 1, kv (Apt.) 128, Moscow.

Lady Tata Memorial Trust. Applications are invited for scholarships and fellowships to aid research on leukaemia and allied conditions. Further information may be obtained from: Secretary (European) Scientific Advisory Committee, Lady Tata Memorial Trust, Chester Beatty Research Institute, Fulham Road, London SW3.

A. E. Bennett Research Awards. The Society of Biological Psychiatry is offering two awards—one in basic and one in clinical science—for the purpose of stimulating worldwide research in biological psychiatry by young (under 35 years) investigators. Further information from: Chairman, Committee on Research Awards, Veterans' Administration Hospital, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401.