

obituary

Ernst David Bergmann, professor of organic chemistry at the Hebrew University and one of Israel's leading scientists, died on April 6 at the age of 71.

Born the son of a Rabbi in Germany, he obtained his PhD at Berlin in 1933, and arrived in London during that year. There he met Chaim Weizmann, with whom he was to form a close working relationship, lasting 18 years. He left for Palestine in 1934 to head the Daniel Sieff Institute (later the Weizmann Institute), which he had helped to plan. Before accepting the professorship of organic chemistry in Jerusalem (where he resigned from the

post of vice-president only last March) in 1953, he had been Scientific Director of the Sieff (Weizmann) from 1934–51. From 1953–66 he was chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and director of defence research in the Ministry of Defence, and currently had been director of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute at the Hebrew University and Honorary President of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His early studies on the stereochemistry of the Walden inversion and on polycyclic hydrocarbons, and his later work on the toxicity of organic fluorine compounds and on the role of steroids in insect growth, had gained him international fame. His research

had been mainly in the fields of petroleum and photochemistry; on receiving the Solomon Bublick Prize in 1973, he had predicted the oil crisis that would beset the world, and proposed the establishment of an international agency for oil—along the lines of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which the Arab states were participants. In recent years he had also been involved in developing contacts between the scientific and technological communities of Israel and West Germany. Among many prizes recognising his lifelong contributions to science, Professor Bergmann had received the Israel Prize for Natural Science and the Rothschild Prize.

announcements

Appointments

The Trustees of the Nuffield Foundation have appointed **John Maddox** as Director of the Foundation. **Robin Matthews** has been appointed a Trustee.

J. R. Parratt, reader in physiology and pharmacology, has been appointed to a personal professorship at the University of Strathclyde.

Birkbeck College, London has appointed **Judith Greene** as professor of psychology.

International meetings

October 2, **Current nutritional developments**, Manchester, UK (Mr J. Crowther, The Metal Box Co. Ltd, Monmouth House, Monmouth Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 7BJ, UK).

October 6–10, **Nuclear techniques in animal production and health**, Vienna (International Atomic Energy Agency, Kartner Ring 11, PO Box 590, A-1011, Vienna, Austria).

October 6–10, **Remote sensing of environment**, Ann Arbor (The University of Michigan, Extension Service, Conference Department, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104).

Person to Person

London accommodation. American pharmacologist and wife, without children or pets, seek small furnished flat (1 or 2 bedrooms) in central London for October and November, 1975, while working on sabbatical leave at University College (Dr J. P. Green, 33 Avenue de Breteuil, Paris 75007, France; tel. no. 734-37-36).

Nuts. Scientist requires small samples of edible nuts without fleshy layer for photographing. Botanical description or description by use. Entry permits will be forwarded (Dr Arnold Krochmal, 13 Veterans Drive, Asheville, North Carolina 28805).

There will be no charge for this service. Send items (not more than 60 words) to Holly Connell at the London office. The section will include exchanges of accommodation, personal announcements and scientific queries. We reserve the right to decline material submitted. No commercial transactions.

October 13–15, **Electronic and aerospace systems**, Washington DC (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Technical Activities Board, 345 East 47th Street, New York, New York 10017).

October 13–17, **Gas cooled reactors**, Jülich, German Federal Republic (IAEA/NEA International Symposium on Gas Cooled Reactors with Emphasis on Advanced Systems, c/o International Atomic Energy Agency, PO Box 590, Kartner Ring 11, A-1011, Vienna, Austria).

October 14–16, **CAMAC in computer applications**, Brussels (Dr H. Meyer, Commission of the European Communities, CRC-CBNM, Steenweg naar Retie, B-2440 GEEL, Belgium).

October 16–18, **Platinum**, Denver (G. A. Desborough, Convenor US Geological Survey, Building 25, Denver Federal Centre, Denver, Colorado 80225).

October 20–24, **Safeguarding of nuclear materials**, Vienna, Austria (International Atomic Energy Agency, PO Box 590, Kartner Ring 11, A-1011, Vienna).

October 20–24, **Clean air and pollution control**, Brighton (National Society for Clean Air, 136 North Street, Brighton BN1 1RG, UK).

October 22, **Molecular beam-surface interactions**, London (The Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 80X, UK).