

BOOKS FOR BRAZIL

An important gift of books has been made by CERN to help rebuild the library recently destroyed by fire at the Rio de Janeiro Physics Research Centre, the "Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas".

This library was unique for the documentation in the fields of nuclear physics and higher mathematics, and a campaign has been launched by the UNESCO to rebuild it.

On his way back from the Kiev Conference, Prof. C. Lattes, Director of the Centre, came to CERN to use the services of the synchro-cyclotron. On this occasion, Dr. H. Coblans, head of the CERN library, considered with him possible CERN contributions to restore the Brazilian library. It was then agreed to have 28 duplicate technical volumes of bound periodicals, a full set of CERN Annual Reports and the 1956 and 1958 Conference Proceedings, donated to Prof. Lattes.

...on et de liaison qu'il se propo-
desirerais vivement le recevoir régulièrement. Je
vous en remercie à l'avance et je souhaite beaucoup de
succès à cette nouvelle initiative.

J'aimerais toutefois vous signaler qu'une
erreur s'est glissée dans votre texte français du numéro
de septembre du "COURRIER CERN". En première page, à la
fin de l'article "Le mois dernier au CERN" vous parlez
du synchrotron à protons de 25 milliards d'électronvolt,
alors que l'orthographe juste de ce mot est "électron-
volts".

Je vous serais reconnaissant de m'éclairer à
sujet dans un prochain numéro de "COURRIER".

Unifying the units

We are sorry to have to contradict our reader whose complaints are printed above.

In February 1958 the members of CERN's scientific staff were asked to contribute to the standardization of symbols, units and terminology.

To this end two documents were distributed: "Symbols and Units" published in 1955 by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and Publication No 27 of the International Electrotechnical Commission, entitled "International Letter Symbols used in connection with Electricity" (1953).

We note in one of these documents: "Symbols for units **should not** be written in the plural" — hence the spelling of "electronvolt" which, moreover, should be written as one word, not two.

The CERN Conference on Accelerators

(Continued from page 7)

Room. It was worth splitting up the main conference on account of the three specialized reports by the Russian scientist A. A. Vasilyev, which could not be included in the main discussions owing to lack of time.

On the same afternoon one of the three complementary sessions dealing with beam stacking accelerators was being held at PS.

The full importance of the chambers showing the particle tracks was to be confirmed on the morning of Friday 18th. Nine reports dealt specially with bubble chambers using propane, xenon or a mixture of freon with one of these gases.

However, it is not sufficient to carry out experiments, to observe the particles produced and to take photographs of nuclear events. In the course of a single experiment lasting a few days 100 000 photographs may be taken. This figure gives some idea of the difficulty of scanning and interpreting events.

Ten speakers — American, Belgian, English, Italian, and Russian — described the methods used for this purpose. Their work may be less spectacular than that of their colleagues engaged in gigantic electro-technical schemes. Nevertheless, this is one of the most important practical aspects of nuclear physics.

A meeting was being held at the same time in the SC, during which American, European and Russian linear accelerator specialists exchanged views on these essential components of the modern atom smashers.

The last meeting

Then came the last day of a Conference which had gathered on CERN's international territory a scientific elite from the whole world. American and Chinese, European and Russian scientists described fresh developments concerning "Counters and other High Energy Particle Detectors".

After the 7th session, the last in the programme, had been declared closed by Professor W. Paul, it only remained for Professor V. I. Veksler, head of the Soviet Delegation, to deliver the closing address. This was short and academically concise. Speaking personally and on behalf of his colleagues, he stressed the great number of excellent reports and the valuable discussions to which the Conference had given rise. "It is a great pleasure", he said "to see that the authors of new proposals have carried out splendid research work." He was sure that the whole assembly would join him in congratulating Professor C. J. Bakker, J. B. Adams and their colleagues on the great scientific event of the Conference: the first revolution of the beam in the PS.

After thanking CERN for the excellent organization of the Conference and the welcome extended to the visitors, Professor Veksler concluded with the hope that this fruitful co-operation in high energy phys-

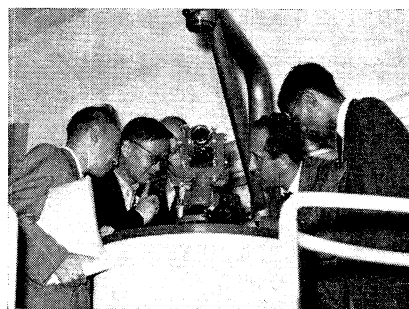
ics would continue in the future and by wishing everyone every success in their work.

* * *

The flags standing out against the Jura have now been lowered. The scientists have returned to their respective countries. Another Conference on accelerators is over.

What remains? What conclusions are to be drawn? What will be the result of one of the greatest concentrations of scientists ever to take place? All that has been gleaned by individuals, of course, but also the detailed reports to be published in December by the CERN Scientific Information Service. The latter will be a useful reminder and at the same time a summary of high energy nuclear technique, 1959 style.

But has one any right to draw any conclusions from a Conference dealing with subjects as varied and as highly specialized as those discussed? It seems more reasonable to say that everyone will have drawn his own conclusions according to his tastes and his interests. The impressions of several leading scientists are featured elsewhere. They confirm this view.



CERN Photo

A group of Asiatic scientists listening to J. Gervaise explaining the positioning of the proton synchrotron magnets.

However, some remarks by Professor Leprince-Ringuet, Vice-Chairman of the CERN Scientific Policy Committee, will give food for speculative thought and serve to bring this article to an end. "The Conference" he said "has made it clear that important work is being done not only by the great nuclear research centres, but also by many universities, where original equipment is being developed." Accordingly Professor Leprince-Ringuet considers that CERN should encourage universities of the Member States to produce ideas and schemes leading to developments which could later be used in connection with the Organization's machines. "Furthermore", he continued "by keeping alive the interest of the universities, CERN will secure a flow of workers ready to perpetuate the spirit of research".