

They left CERN

The CERN staff is constantly changing. This is because the Organization wants to put its experimental equipment at the disposal of the greatest possible number of physicists and allow universities and national institutions to benefit from its experience.

CERN does this by leaving the door open to a continual stream of scientists. This ensures a constant renewal of ideas, but it also means that CERN has to part with some of those responsible for its operation, its development or even its creation. In the last few weeks CERN has thus recorded the departure of three of those who have played a considerable part in the life of the Organization :

- **William Gibson** came to CERN on 1 October 1957 to head the SC "Nuclear Emulsion Group"; he left the Organization on 9 September. Under the direction of Prof. C. F. Powell of Bristol University, he will become leader of the group using photographic emulsions with accelerators. From Bristol, the Mecca of photographic technique with nuclear emulsions, W. Gibson will often have to work in co-operation with his former colleagues, the CERN physicists.

- **Hans Horisberger** left CERN on 31 August, for a factory manufacturing printing machinery. He came to Geneva in June 1954, in the early days of the Organization when there were only about twenty people in the PS Division; in co-operation with A. Achermann, he established and organized a drawing office for the whole Division.

- **Bernard M. Wheatley** returned to the United Kingdom at the end of August. At the Nuclear Research Laboratory at Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, doing work on the operation of power reactors, he will be in charge of protection against radiation. He will therefore occupy a similar position to that which he had held at CERN since February 1957: Head of the Health Physics Section.

energy reactions continue to intrigue the theoreticians, who are trying to explain this phenomenon.

At the **synchro-cyclotron**, many experimental teams continue their work with the accelerator. The g-2 Group has nearly completed preparations for an experiment which is eagerly awaited in the world of physics. By measuring the anomaly of the magnetic moment of the mu meson, this experiment will perhaps explain why two fundamental particles, the electron and the mu meson, have identical properties, except for mass.

The **Finance Office** in September was engaged in a very important task : drawing up of the draft budget for the financial year 1961, to be submitted to the Council for approval at the beginning of December.

The **Rochester Conference** on high energy physics closed on 1 September. Fifteen CERN physicists attended, and a dozen others went to Berkeley in the middle of the month for a meeting of experts on high energy physics instruments. Finally, at the beginning of September, there was a conference in **Copenhagen** on the use of radio-isotopes in the paper on geophysics entitled "The Radiation Age of Meteorites" ●

The CERN Health Physics Group

by **Bernard M. WHEATLEY**

"Health Physics" started in CERN in February 1957, as one of the groups of Dr. Kowarski's Division of Scientific and Technical Services.

At that time the accelerators were still being constructed and only very few of the 430 staff members had proper buildings to work in. So, the first headquarters of the Health Physics group was a room in one of the wooden barracks at the edge of the airport although, work proceeded at a lively pace at Meyrin. After a short time, Health Physics had a room of its own in one of the "temporary" wooden huts, between the synchro-cyclotron (SC) and the hydrogen liquifier.

FIRST MONTHS

The early months were very busy ones. The protection problems of the accelerators were studied, instruments were ordered, and a film badge service was set up. Such work is standard procedure when starting any health physics group, but CERN had many novel problems. As an international laboratory it had to devise its own rules and procedures without any precedents as a guide. Indeed, even the terms of reference of the health physics group, and the definition of its relationships within CERN itself needed to be discussed and agreed. Questions of insurance of staff and property against radiation risks were resolved, working relationships with the Safety Committee and with local authorities were established, and the future needs for people and money were made known.

When the synchro-cyclotron started work in August 1957, the Health Physics group was sufficiently well equipped to make the radiation surveys, and to take part in framing the local rules regulating work on the radio-activated components of the machine. At that time the SC Nuclear Chemistry laboratories were being planned, and the Health Physics group was able to advise on some aspects of the design, and to recommend the installation of delay tanks for liquid waste from the laboratories. Samples from these tanks are evaporated to dryness and measured for radioactivity before the tanks are emptied from the site.

GROWTH

Since 1957, the group has grown in order to keep pace with the demands upon it but without any major change of policy. Some of the technical problems, especially those of handling mildly radioactive material, are conventional, but the problems of measuring extremely

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Sven Larson measuring the level of radio-activity on the mound covering the PS, by means of the apparatus installed in the mobile laboratory belonging to the "Health Physics" Group.