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Not long after the signing of the agreements leasing the new site in France to CERN (CERN COURIER, vol. 5, p. 147, Oct. 1965), work began on the long job of installing the 2.6-km-long fence needed to enclose the area and make it inaccessible from the French side of the frontier. Our photograph shows some of the clearance necessary on the Southern corner of the new territory, near the junction with the existing area, where a new site road will be constructed.

nuclei. This is of particular interest since this is one of the first groups to come from outside CERN as a result of the decisions of the Nuclear Structure Committee, set up to co-ordinate work in this field at the synchrocyclotron. The experiment requires an intense beam of pions which is being obtained from the external proton beam of the accelerator.

Among experiments carried out earlier this year was one on the **decay of the neutral pion into three gamma rays**, by a group of physicists from CERN and the University of Heidelberg (Fed. Rep. of Germany). The results, which were presented at the Oxford Conference and later published in *Physics Letters**, are of particular theoretical interest since they also are concerned with the problem of CP invariance, discussed in the September issue of CERN COURIER (vol. 5, pp. 131-132). If the strong and the electromagnetic interaction are both invariant under the operation of charge conjugation (C), the neutral pion can never decay into three gamma rays, only into two; if not, recent theory suggests that emission of the third gamma ray might be possible a few times in every million disintegrations.

In the CERN experiment, no certain example of the three-gamma decay was found, which enables an upper limit of five times in a million to be put on its occurrence. Although this figure is a hundred times less than the previous experimental estimate, and proves that the three-gamma decay must in any case be very rare, it is, unfortunately, still just too high to enable any definite conclusions to be drawn concerning the new theory.

2-m bubble chamber reaches 500 000

The period from the middle of September to the middle of October

at the PS (weeks 38-42 inclusive) was devoted principally to bubble-chamber experiments, although a certain amount of the primary proton beam continued to be available for the various electronics experiments in the South and East experimental halls. The CERN 2-m hydrogen bubble chamber began its second main run in week 39, and on 15 October the number of good photographs obtained with this chamber passed the first half million.

During this period also, the first tests were made with the new radio-frequency-separated beam, u_1 , which originates in a target struck by the ejected proton beam from straight-section 58.

With great regret we have to announce the sudden death, on 18 november 1965, of one of the early members of the CERN staff, Dr. J.A. NEWTH, leader of the cosmic-ray group in the years 1955-58. Since then he has been at Imperial College, London, but has continued to work closely with CERN and retained many contacts here. All those who had the good fortune to work with him will keep in memory a personality with great intellectual and human qualities.

All our sympathy goes to his family at this time.

Changes at head of SB Division

On 1st October 1965, Mr. **Ch. Mallet** relinquished his post as leader of the Site and Buildings Division to join AR Division, where he will take part whole-time in the site studies for a 300-GeV accelerator. Mr. **P. Tirion** has been appointed Acting Division Leader of SB Division. At the same time, the Directorate Member for Technical Management, Dr. **P. Germain**, has assumed special responsibility for problems affecting the long-term policy of the Division ●

THE END OF A CHAPTER

This issue of CERN COURIER marks the end of a chapter in the history of the publication of the monthly review of the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Its Editor, **Alec Hester**, is leaving the Public Information Office to take up duties, elsewhere in CERN, which he feels are more in line with his scientific leanings and which will, perhaps, be less exacting.

The editing and production of our periodical, with limited means, requires not only very definite intellectual qualities, for collecting and processing information from all over the Laboratory, but also considerable physical and moral toughness to cope with the many dictates of production which are the lot of every editor.

It is only right to tell Alec how much his efforts have been appreciated, since he began in 1961 to pack into CERN COURIER the wealth of information which is now its hallmark.

It is mainly thanks to his drive that CERN COURIER, which now has a circulation of 6000 copies (French and English versions combined), has risen from the rank of 'internal information journal' to that of 'world spokesman for European sub-nuclear physics'.

Alec Hester will fortunately still be in our midst, in the Library, where his talents and experience will remain available to his CERN colleagues, both scientists and others, and to his successor. The latter is **Brian Southworth**, who has also had considerable experience 'in the trade', as editor of a similar publication, *Orbit*, at the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory in the United Kingdom.

Roger Anthoine

* *Physics Letters*, vol. 19, pp. 253-255, 15 Oct. 1965.