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PHYSICS

Princeton's Wigner Gets Third Enrico Fermi Award

► THE ATOMIC Energy Commission's third Enrico Fermi Award has been presented to Dr. Eugene P. Wigner of Princeton University.

The award ceremony was held on Dec. 2, the 16th anniversary of the startup of the first atomic reactor by Fermi and his associates at Stagg Field in Chicago. Dr. Wigner was one of Fermi's co-workers at that time.

Professor of mathematical physics at Princeton, Dr. Wigner received the award, consisting of a medal, a citation and \$50,000, for his contributions to the development of nuclear reactors and to the training of scientists and engineers in the field. The award was recommended by the AEC's General Advisory Committee and approved by President Eisenhower.

Dr. Wigner was the first to calculate the correct lattice proportions of uranium and graphite in the design of the Hanford production reactors, according to the committee's recommendation letter.

"There is no one in the country today who is better informed about the reactor development program and has made more contributions to its progress than has Dr. Wigner."

"It is especially appropriate," the citation reads, "to emphasize that although Dr. Wigner is rightfully regarded as a theoretical physicist, his contributions have been outstanding in the practical developments of nuclear energy. In this respect his dual role in the atomic energy field is quite unique."

The adoption of the water-cooled design for the Hanford piles was made largely through Dr. Wigner's efforts. This decision is believed to have been of the "greatest importance" in insuring the necessary production of plutonium during the war and afterwards.

The late Dr. John von Neumann, noted scientist and AEC member, and the late Dr. E. O. Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron, were the recipients of the first two Fermi Awards. (See SNL, Dec. 14, 1957, p. 376.)

Science News Letter, December 13, 1958

PSYCHOLOGY

Mother Goats Reject Kids If Separated After Birth

► MOTHER GOATS that are separated from their babies for one hour after birth do not want the kids back.

Furthermore, this short separation results in abnormal or unstable maternal behavior, Dr. Julius B. Richmond and Leonard Hersher, college of medicine, State University of New York, Syracuse, and A. Ulric Moore of Cornell University, Ithaca, report in *Science* (Nov. 28).

In addition, the abnormal behavior of these mothers affected the maternal behavior of mothers that had not been separated from their kids.

The separated mothers were more willing

to nurse offspring that did not belong to them. They nursed their own kids less and other kids more than did the nonseparated mothers. Mothers that had not been separated from their kids nursed other kids relatively little, devoting most of their time to their own offspring.

An unexpected result of the study that included 24 separated and 21 nonseparated mother goats was the rejection of their own kids by some of the mothers that were not separated from their young, the scientists comment.

They postulate that the rejection behavior may have developed in the nonseparated mothers because their kids wandered off to some of the separated mothers shortly after birth.

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