R. Godet

René Godet, who joined CERN in 1955 and rose to be head of the Surface Treatment Workshop, died in a car accident at the end of March.

He was born at the nearby French town of Gex in June 1932. He qualified as a fitter at the Ecole de Mécanique of Geneva in 1952 and joined the Proton Synchrotron Workshop as an assistant fitter in July 1955. He was soon entrusted with precision work requiring specialized knowledge.

When the need arose for a 'Surface Treatment Workshop', René Godet quickly applied himself to the intriguing problems of chemistry involved in this type of work. He developed an absorbing interest in his small laboratory, built up from scratch, initially with very limited resources. One of the first things he realized was the difficulty of keeping abreast of the latest developments in this field and to overcome this he organized courses on electro-forming with the help of specialists in Geneva. These courses were very well received and developed over the years. They resulted in the formation of the 'Association Romande pour l'Etude des Traitements de Surface (ARETS)' of which Godet became President. The Association's official journal is 'La Revue Polytechnique'.

Eventually, he increased his knowledge to the point where he himself gave courses at the Cours Industriels de Genève, was often called in as an expert and was examiner for trade apprentices final examinations.

At CERN, the originally small workshop, was continually improved and in 1965, Godet left the PS Workshop to devote himself entirely to the organization and equiping of a new Surface Treatment Workshop. There he lead successful attacks on many technical problems of major importance — these included printed circuits, deposits on non-conductors, electrolytic polishing, oxidation of aluminium, etc... The Workshop rapidly became too small and is at present being doubled in size.

His pleasant personality, his enthusiasm and his competence helped René Godet to forge strong links with the industries where surface treatment work is prominent. These links proved fruitful to all those with whom he made contact and resulted in his becoming very well known in this specialized field.

He was a good friend, always with a ready smile, a bon-vivant, and passionately interested in his work. He had often turned away opportunities to better himself financially in order to stay with the Workshop he had created where he considered himself more at home than anywhere else. He unstintingly gave the best part of his life to his work.

Both CERN and René Godet's personal friends have lost a valuable colleague, who was able to impart to his staff a spirit and devotion that it will be difficult to equal.