Marc de Hemptinne (1902-1986)

Marc de Hemptinne, Emeritus Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve) and one of the most influential figures in post-war nuclear physics in Belgium, died on 1 April.

His personal contributions to physics were in molecular spectroscopy, but as Director of Louvain’s Institute of Physics he contributed greatly to the birth of nuclear and elementary particle physics in Belgium. After contacts with Lawrence, he went ahead with the construction of Belgium’s first cyclotron and built up around it a team which was to seed Belgian elementary particle physics.

He witnessed the movement to found CERN and was a member of the Organization’s first council from 1954-57.

His students and colleagues will remember him as influence which helped them to mature.