

Dr. Hartland Snyder

At the end of last month the very sad news reached us that Dr. Hartland Snyder had died. To us in CERN, Snyder's name is for ever tied to the discovery of the alternating-gradient focusing principle. He shared the honour of this discovery with his colleagues E.D. Courant and Dr. M.S. Livingston, and with Dr. N.C. Christofilos. Everybody knows what this has meant to CERN. We can only remind ourselves that we were planning a 10-GeV weak-focused synchrotron, a machine at least as expensive and more difficult to make than the PS, when in 1952 we learnt about the elegant new ideas from Brookhaven. This changed the CERN plans entirely, and perhaps also the CERN spirit, as we got a very much more exciting project to concentrate on.

Snyder's role in this development can hardly be overestimated. Not only did he take part in the discovery of the new principle, but he followed it up continuously with enthusiasm, optimism and new ideas, while attached to the AGS project in Brookhaven during its entire period of construction.

He also coloured other projects. He spent considerable time and effort on the electron-synchrotron

project at Cambridge, Mass., and when he died he was at the centre of the planning of much larger synchrotrons at Berkeley, where he was a visitor on leave from Brookhaven. We in CERN were hoping to see him here in a few weeks time, and we have learned from Fritz Grütter how much he was looking forward to his visit, which he had not been able to make before.

Although Snyder's main contributions lie in the field of accelerator physics he had in fact, as a theoretical physicist, a much wider field of interest and ability, and influenced in a wide sense the physics programmes in the laboratories to which he was attached.

Snyder died young, he was only 49, and untimely. We still expected great contributions from him. There is hardly a day that his name does not come up in some connexion or other. 'Snyder said so and so' is a very common phrase. His statements were sometimes controversial, but always to the point and always inspiring. Our Organization and many of its staff have lost a good friend.

K. Johnsen