

*GEORGIÏ NIKOLAEVICH FLEROV*

(On the occasion of his fiftieth birthday)

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MARCH 2, 1963 marked the fiftieth birthday of Georgii Nikolaevich Flerov, a prominent Soviet physicist and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

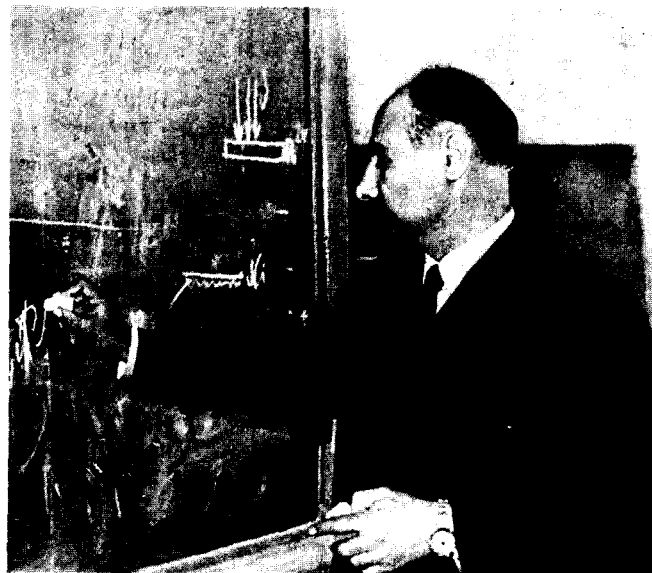
Flerov has engaged in creative scientific work since his graduation from the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute in 1938, showing from the outset great gifts as an experimenter and extraordinary tenacity and singleness of purpose in the solution of the most difficult problems of nuclear physics. Following his graduation, Flerov worked in the laboratory of I. V. Kurchatov, where he investigated the splitting of nuclei by neutrons. Together with K. A. Petrzhak he evolved new equipment for recording fission which was many times more sensitive than any used hitherto. Investigations using this equipment led to the discovery in 1940 of a new type of radioactive transformation of nuclei—spontaneous fission.

During the bitter years of the Second World War Flerov served with the Soviet Air Force.

Flerov belongs to the number of Soviet scientists who carried out important research during the period of development of atomic technology. At the All-union Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in 1955, he presented a paper entitled "Research of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR on Hydrogen-moderated Reactors Fueled with Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239."

In 1953, Flerov turned to a new field of nuclear physics, involving investigation of the interaction of complex nuclei. One of the problems in this field is the creation and study of the properties of new transuranic elements. Under his guidance, a laboratory of nuclear reactions was organized within the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, which was equipped with a unique heavy-ion accelerator. The investigations of Flerov's group in the field of interaction of complex nuclei yielded a number of interesting results as regards both the characteristics of such reactions and the properties of their products.

For a number of years, Flerov has been carrying



on important work on the application of nuclear physics methods to geological exploration and prospecting. Among the results of this work has been the development of improved methods of neutron logging of oil deposits.

The Government has repeatedly shown its appreciation of Flerov's services to science: he is a Hero of Socialist Labor and the holder of several State prizes.

Flerov enjoys working with the young. Not only does he transmit to his young collaborators his rich scientific experience, teach them that experiment must be governed by logic, and train them to discern simplicity in complexity and to seek qualitatively new results; he also imbues them with his own enthusiasm for science. Flerov is full of plans for extensive future work. We take this opportunity to wish him good health, good spirits, and the successful completion of all his projects.

Translated by Valentine S. Rosen