Adventurers in Research

Dr. W. E. Shoupp

SCIENTIST

After graduation from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in 1931, he served as graduate assistant and instructor in physics at the University of Illinois where he received his degrees of Master of Arts in 1933, and Doctor of Philosophy in 1937. He joined Westinghouse in 1938 as a Research Fellow. In 1941, he became a research scientist in the Laboratory at East Pittsburgh and was made Manager of the Electronics Department at the Laboratory in 1943. Four years later, he was appointed Director of Research of the Westinghouse Atomic Power Division. He is now Director of Development of this Division.

At a meeting of scientists in 1938, several were discussing the use of nuclear energy as a possible source of large amounts of energy. Before the meeting was over, others joined in and the subject really became "hot". Among those engaging in the discussion was Dr. W. E. Shoupp, then a Research Fellow at the Westinghouse Research [illegible]ratories.

[illegible]pp went back to the Laboratory, determined to [illegible]vers to the subject. Making use of the new [illegible]igh [illegible]se atom smasher, he and other nuclear scien- [illegible] did some pioneering research, culminating in the [illegible]covery that a uranium atom could be split into two [illegible]qual fragments by the impact of high-speed gamma rays, with commensurate release of large amounts of energy. This they called "photo-fission".

His work on the subject also included the determination of the amount of neutron energy required to cause uranium and thorium to fission. This contributed to the basic understanding of the nuclear fission process and to the development of the atomic bomb and atomic energy.

Incidentally, the Lamp Laboratory of Westinghouse supplied pure uranium for the first nuclear reactor.

At the beginning of World War II, when radar was being considered, Dr. Shoupp and some associates built from scratch, a radar laboratory where tubes and application techniques were developed. They made a major contribution to radar, and equally important, radar jamming.

Dr. Shoupp is continuing his work regarding atomic energy as Director of Development of the Westinghouse Atomic Power Division. Current research work under his supervision includes developments in connection with an atomic energy plant for the first atomic submarine and another plant suitable for the propulsion of large vessels such as aircraft carriers.

A man of engaging personality, Dr. Shoupp has a keen sense of humor and the ability to inspire and develop those who work with him. He is particularly proud of the fact that Westinghouse has been able to attract to the work of atomic power development, scientists of the highest caliber. Westinghouse Electric Corp., Pittsburgh, Penna.

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