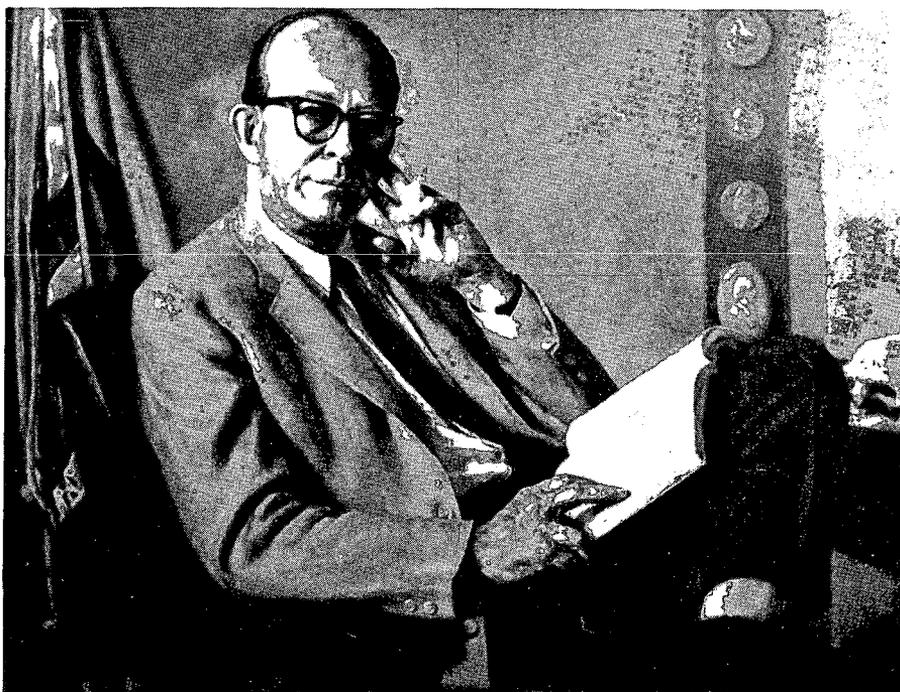


NOBEL LAUREATE VISITS SEIBERSDORF

On 21 September a visit was paid to the Seibersdorf Laboratory by Nobel Laureate Professor Willard Libby. With him were his wife Leona Marshall Libby, also a Professor and a well-known high energy physicist, as well as Professor Hans E. Suess, a colleague of Professor Libby's at the University of California.

Since this issue of the Bulletin is almost coincident with Professor Libby's sixtieth birthday on 17 December the following appreciation may be added to congratulations to an outstanding scientist:

A portrait of Willard Libby painted this year by Professor Alvin Gittins.



Rarely has the work of one man influenced such a great variety of different fields of science as that of Willard F. Libby. The discovery of natural radiocarbon, for which he in 1960 received the Nobel Prize, has led to the development of the method of radiocarbon dating with its great impact upon our knowledge of the chronology of the last stages of the great Ice Age, the development of Stone Age culture, and time sequences of prehistoric developments. Natural cosmic ray-produced radiocarbon represents a most interesting geophysical parameter that gives information on past solar activity and changes of the geomagnetic dipole field. Naturally-occurring radiocarbon is therefore of interest not only to physicists and radiochemists, but also to scientists working in fields such as glacial geology, climatology, oceanography, anthropology, prehistory, history, astronomy, meteorology, etc. But Libby's scientific work was by no means limited to this important discovery. As a radiochemist he contributed decisively to the discovery of long-lived nuclear isomers and the development of nuclear and radiation chemistry. His classical work on hot atom chemistry laid the foundation for this whole field of research.

For the Agency Libby's influence while a U.S. Atomic Energy Commissioner was decisive and beneficial. During the early years his association involved helping to build its legal structure and guidance in the task of assistance to member nations. These services include hydrology, now reaching an exciting threshold of achievement by employing methods which to a large part had been developed by Libby and his co-workers, the promising field of oceanography and the impressive developments in agronomy.