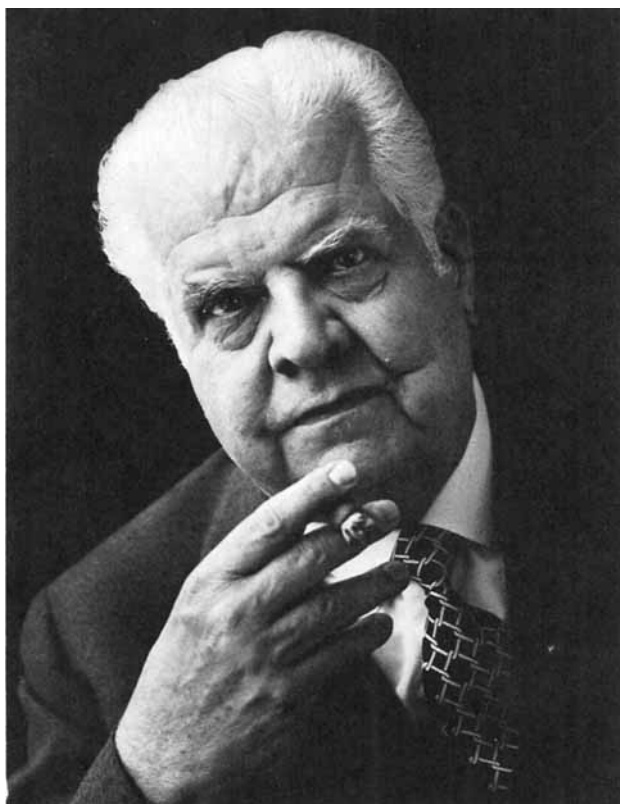


To Otto Bayer for His 70th Birthday



Otto Bayer was born in Frankfurt-Main on November 4, 1902, studied chemistry at the University there, and received his Ph.D. degree with Professor J. von Braun in 1924. He stayed with his teacher, as assistant, until 1927 when he entered the Mainkur Plant of I.G. Farben as a research chemist. Already in 1931 he was made a section leader and one year later he was transferred to the Central Research Laboratory at Leverkusen. So successful was Otto Bayer at this new location that he was promoted to manager in 1934 and to director in 1939. After the war—in 1951—he joined the Board of Directors of the newly founded Farbenfabriken Bayer A.G. and in 1964 he was appointed Chairman of the Board.

During the 40 years of his professional activity, Otto Bayer proved to be a research leader of unusual diversity and an administrator of eminent capability. His astonishing memory, his originality and creative imagination, his natural optimism and his never-failing sense for work in the right direction, permitted him to attack again and again new areas of Research and Development with astounding success.

He not only instructed a great number of his associates what to do but he was able to arouse in them deep interest and even devoted enthusiasm for their work. This created—for many years—an atmosphere in his laboratory which was difficult to find anywhere else in the world.

As a result success in many areas was bound to come sooner or later and, in fact, his laboratory developed, in the course of the years, numerous important dye stuffs, textile auxiliary products, pharmaceuticals, organic

intermediates for the coating and rubber industry, and a variety of new synthetic rubbers, fibers, and plastics. His name figures prominently on more than 400 patents and many scientific publications. Otto Bayer is perhaps the last who fully dominated so many different areas of industrial activity in chemistry and engineering; he never drew a line between fundamental and applied research. He knew that all new fundamental knowledge would find its application and that a permanent and profitable solution of industrial problems always requires a sound and dependable basic background.

Out of the galaxy of his achievement shines with special brightness the discovery and development of the diisocyanate poly addition process in 1937 which founded the chemistry and industry of the polyurethanes, a field which is vigorously expanding but has already produced a plurality of valuable elastomers, fibers, plastics, coatings, and adhesives.

But while his time was fully occupied with pressing problems of his many intramural obligations, Otto Bayer never forgot his duties to the chemical profession in his country and in the world. He worried about the scientific and technical education of the new generations and was of immeasurable help to numerous universities, assisting equally their organization as a whole and many individual professors, assistants, and students. He was one of the founders and initiators of the "Fonds der Chemischen Industrie," he was Honorary Professor at the University of Cologne for many years and he was eminently instrumental in the new edition of the 40 volumes of the "Houben-Weyl; Methoden der Organischen Chemie" of which he wrote one whole volume all by himself.

We all remember with how much distinction and with how much deep human warmth he cooperated in international circles with all members of the scientific community of the world. Naturally, high ideals and ceaseless work could not go unrewarded and unrecognized by his contemporaries. Long and impressive is the list of honors and grateful recognitions which were bestowed on him during his career. To mention only a few of special importance: in 1951 he was awarded the Adolf von Baeyer medal, in 1952 the Gauss-Weber medal, in 1960 the Carl Duisberg medal, and the Siemens Ring, and in 1966 the Otto N. Witt medal. Since 1950 he has been a member of the Academy of Sciences in Mainz, since 1962 Senator of the Max Planck Society, since 1963 Honorary Member of the Chemists Club in New York, and since 1965 Honorary Member of the German Chemical Society. Four Universities and two Technical Universities gave him an Honorary Ph.D. degree.

The image of prominent men often depends on whether you look at them with a magnifying lens or with a telescope. These lines were put together by two of his contemporaries, one of them saw him almost every week whereas the other had no occasion to meet him more than once every two or three years. They both are pleased to testify that Otto Bayer for his associates in the laboratory is an inspiring leader, for his audiences in the lecture halls a fascinating speaker, and for his family and colleagues all over the world a matchless gentleman.

May he enjoy with Mrs. Bayer many more years of a happy and healthy life.

H. HOLTSCHMIDT
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