

When moving from town to town in Germany, we used the highly efficient railway system, which was so fast that their normal stop at a station was only 2 minutes. One of us, Arthur Hazlet from *The Times*, missed getting out in time at one stop, and had to be rescued by the station master at the next town.

In Heidelberg we met Professor K.H. Bauer, who was then 81 years old, and had spent many years planning, pleading for, and finally organising the building of a gigantic Cancer Research Center, equipped with the most modern research instruments. Its cost was estimated then at £ 15 million, considered a very large sum for a single scientific Institute. It even had a small atomic reactor to produce short-lived isotopes for diagnosis and treatment.

When we visited it, it was almost ready to receive its staff of 800 doctors and scientists. The first problem then being investigated was the X-ray contrast medium Thorotrast which, after use, was not completely eliminated from the body, but accumulated in the liver and spleen of patients, causing cancer. It is of course no longer in use. Other priority projects were to identify cancer caused by food and drug additives.

To guide and direct such a large research complex, composed of many individual Institutes, was no easy task and only after the appointment of Professor Harald zur Hausen in the summer of 1983 did it gain its rightful place and began to deserve its world reputation in the field of cancer research. After its existence for 25 years, I published the story of its success. [See Title 368]

After a night at Heidelberg's Five-Star Hotel Europa, we moved on to Bonn [see above] and finally from there, as our last 'big science' star attraction, to the Radiotelescope at Effelsberg in the Eifel. It is completely steerable and at the time was the largest of its kind in the world, with a diameter of 100 m, larger than its British equivalent at Jodrell Bank. We saw it, computer controlled, moving in all directions, while Professor O. Hachenberg, its designer and director, explained its future research projects to us. Four days after our visit it was officially inaugurated.

In conclusion, I can only state that this visit to German science was highly successful and achieved the aims of its organiser. Dr Carsten Salander, then the Science Counsellor at the German Embassy in London and responsible for the choice of projects we saw. My colleagues from the London newspapers were as impressed as I was with the determined efforts of Germany to become again a world power in basic science research, and, through massive financial incentives, well on the way to achieve this aim. By the year 2000 it had been reached.