

Haverford Physics Surveyed

When Haverford College recently undertook to discuss the physics program of a liberal arts college, Professors Karl S. Van Dyke, Wesleyan University, Gaylord P. Harnwell, University of Pennsylvania, and Norman Ramsey, Harvard University, were called in as consultants.

The conclusion was that the ideal undergraduate course in a liberal arts college physics department would consist of a minimum of four full-year courses (three required, the fourth a choice) with increasing maturity required each year. Electives were also listed.

The minimum physics major program proposed was: general physics, using calculus and requiring freshman mathematics; electricity and magnetism, usually in the junior year, and requiring integral calculus and differential equations concurrently; senior course, option between mathematical physics and electronics; and an individual-project course allowing a student to do extended experimental and theoretical work in a field of his interest.

Elected

At its annual meeting on March 25, 1948 the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics reelected the officers of the Institute and members of the Executive Committee for 1948. They are: Dean George R. Harrison, Chairman; Dean George B. Pegram, Treasurer; Wallace Waterfall, Secretary; Dean John T. Tate, Adviser on Publications; and E. U. Condon and Paul E. Klopsteg.

The Metropolitan Section of the American Physical Society announced the election of its officers for the 1948-49 season. They are: L. W. McKeehan, President; J. B. Johnson, Vice President; W. F. C. Ferguson, Secretary-Treasurer; P. Kusch and E. M. Thorndike, Committee Members.

New Publications

A new series of annual volumes, *Methods in Medical Research*, will be devoted to methods and techniques, with each issue divided into sections on biochemistry, physiology and pharmacology, microbiology and immunology, and biophysics including radiobiology. Volume I, edited by Dr. Van R. Potter, University of Wisconsin, will be available this month. Succeeding books will be published each January by The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago.

This month will see the first issue of the new *Scientific American*, recently purchased by a publishing house organized by Gerard Piel, Editor and Publisher, Dennis Flanagan, Managing Editor, and Donald H. Miller, Jr., General Manager. According to announcements, the new magazine will cover all the sciences, make liberal use of scientist-authors, and be written for the educated layman.

New Laboratories

Plans are under way for extensive renovation and additions to the Thompson Physical Laboratory at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

The Atlantic Refining Company announced that its new production laboratories, now being constructed on the outskirts of Dallas, Texas, will be in operation this spring.

E. R. Watts & Son Ltd., manufacturers of surveying and measuring instruments since 1856, and Adam Hilger Ltd., manufacturers of research and industrial instruments, are being formed into one company registered as Hilger & Watts Ltd.

Honors

The Council of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers has awarded the 1948 Faraday Medal to Professor Marcus Lawrence Elwin Oliphant, F.R.S., Poynting Professor of Physics at the University of Birmingham, for his distinguished work in nuclear physics and discoveries in the realm of electromagnetic oscillations, their production, study, and use.

David H. Rank, Professor of Physics at The Pennsylvania State College, has been elected a Fellow of the Physical Society of London.

Fellowships

Further details are now available on the Atomic Energy Commission fellowship program in physical sciences, described in the April Review of Scientific Instruments. Stipends in the predoctoral field range from \$1,500 to \$2,100 and will have a \$3,000 base for postdoctoral work. Tenure of the fellowship does not impose any future employment obligation on the Fellow. Full information is available at the Fellowship Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. S. W. Nichols, of the S. W. Nichols Company, Dallas, Texas, has established two scholarships in physics at the University of Texas. These scholarships are to be granted to high-ranking junior students in physics who obtain special training in acoustics and will normally be renewed in the senior year, with fellowships available for graduate work.

Miscellany

The Physics Department, University of California in Berkeley, announced plans for two active summer sessions this year. In the first, June 21 to July 31, Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer, Institute for Advanced Study, and Professor W. W. Watson, Yale, will conduct seminars and give graduate courses in atomic physics. Dr. J. B. Moyer will give an undergraduate course in physical optics. In the second summer session, August 2 to September 11, Professors Enrico Fermi, University of Chicago, N. F. Ramsey, Harvard, and D. D. Dennison, University of Michigan, will each conduct both courses and seminars.

The new American Association of Physics Teachers directory, covering 2,100 members, will be issued shortly.

The University of Maryland Chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, Physics Honor Society, was installed on March 17 at College Park, Maryland, and the Lake Forest College Chapter, Lake Forest, Illinois, was reactivated on February 27.

The influence of radioactive materials on growth of crop plants will be studied by a number of State agricultural experiment stations in the first agricultural research to be financed by the United States Atomic Energy Commission.