

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.

A Northwest Conference on Nuclear Science directed by Dr. Samuel K. Allison, director of the Institute for Nuclear Studies of the University of Chicago, will be held at Reed College, Portland, Oregon, June 28 to July 16. This conference, designed for teachers, academic and industrial research workers, physicians, and managers and technical staffs of industrial plants, is part of the program of the Reed summer session. It will include sessions on the more technical phases of nuclear research, possible industrial uses of atomic energy, basic implications of nuclear physics and chemistry, fundamental ideas relating to the application of radiobiology to medicine, and public lectures and round-tables on the effect of nuclear science on politics and everyday life.

The Illinois Institute of Technology Van de Graaff generator, designed for approximately 1,500,000 volts, is now in operation. This work has been under the direction of Dr. W. E. Bennett.

Meetings Held

The American Society for Engineering Education, Southeastern Section, met in Gainesville, Florida, on March 3 and 4 in connection with the inauguration of Dr. J. Hillis Miller as president of the University of Florida. Governor Caldwell of Florida and President Carmichael of the Carnegie Foundation emphasized, at conferences on regional planning in higher education, that waste of resources through duplication of effort could be avoided if a half-dozen states would band together to enable one of the stronger universities to develop library resources and provide laboratory facilities and staffs for graduate and research work of the highest quality in one department.

Well-logging, incorporating the use of a cylindrical sound source in a bore hole from which an acoustical impedance log is obtained, was described at the annual meeting of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists held April 26-29 at Denver, Colorado. Drs. C. H. Kean and F. N. Tullos of the Geophysics Research Division of the Humble Oil and Refining Company, Houston, Texas, reported that highly reproducible logs were obtained on a large number of core holes and good correlation was evident from one hole to another.

The Radio & Electrical Laboratories at Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, San Diego, California, have been holding a series of weekly seminars on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from magnetic materials to the physics of the atmosphere and coaxial filters at microwave frequencies.

Meetings To Be

A Conference on the Physics of Metals is to be held in Amsterdam from July 12 to July 18, 1948, under the auspices of the Netherlands Physical Society and of the Netherlands Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. Its principal topics will be: electronic phenomena in metals, ferromagnetism, plasticity and elasticity of metals. Among the invited speakers are Messrs. Bozorth (Bell Telephone Laboratories), Sir Lawrence Bragg (Cambridge), Burgers (Delft), Borelius

(Stockholm), Gorter (Leyden), Guinier (Paris), Kronig (Delft), Mott (Bristol), Neel (Grenoble), Pauling (California Institute of Technology), Snoek (Eindhoven), Van Vleck (Harvard University), and Zener (University of Chicago). American physicists will be welcome. A certain number of hotel rooms have been set aside for visitors to the conference. Requests for these should be addressed to J. van Kranendonk, Van der Waals Laboratorium, Nieuwe Achtergracht 129, Amsterdam, C. Holland.

The Second Symposium on Applied Mathematics of the American Mathematical Society will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, July 29-31, with the cosponsorship of the American Institute of Physics. The program, on electromagnetic theory, will consist of invited papers of twenty or forty minutes. Programs and information regarding accommodation will be mailed to all members of the American Mathematical Society early in July. Others who wish to receive this material are requested to write to Associate Secretary T. R. Hollcroft, American Mathematical Society, 531 West 116th Street, New York 27, New York.

The Gordon Research Conferences, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will be held from June 21 to September 3, 1948 at the Colby Junior College, New London, New Hampshire. The week of August 2 will be devoted to the 1948 Instrumentation Conference in which there will be heard and discussed: chemical analysis through dielectric constant measurements; instrumentation in modern radiochemistry, application of microwaves to instrumentation; use of ultrasonics in chemical analysis; x-ray absorption spectroscopy; symposium on instrument development for research and process measurement and control; Raman and ultraviolet spectroscopy; electrical methods of analysis; and measurement of gas concentration. The conferences, formerly known as the Gibson Island Research Conferences, were established to stimulate research in universities, research foundations, and industrial laboratories by an informal type of meeting consisting of the scheduled lectures and free discussion groups and informal discussions in the considerable time allowed for recreation. Requests for information should be addressed to W. George Parks, Department of Chemistry, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, Rhode Island.

An exhibit of optical instruments will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America in Detroit, October 21-23, 1948. The exhibit will stress the fields of emission and absorption spectroscopy. Applications for exhibit space should be made before May 24 by writing William J. Edgar, Exhibit Supervisor, Optical Society of America 33rd Annual Meeting, 11031 Shoemaker Avenue, Detroit 13, Michigan.

Dr. Edward James Moore

Dr. Edward James Moore, Professor of Physics at the University of Buffalo for the past twenty-nine years, died on March 11, 1948, at the age of 74, after an extended illness.