



NEWS

and VIEWS

National Academy Honors

At the April meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, the Henry Draper medal for 1947 was awarded to Professor Hans A. Bethe, of Cornell University, in recognition of his contributions to astronomical physics, especially for his researches on the generation of energy in the sun and stars.

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey, was elected a member of the council for three years.

Prince Louis de Broglie, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Paris (Sorbonne), was made a foreign associate.

The following were elected members of the Academy: Lloyd V. Berkner, Carnegie Institution; Felix Bloch, Stanford University; Hallowell Davis, Washington University; John R. Dunning and W. Maurice Ewing of Columbia University; Haldan K. Hartline, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Donald H. Menzel, Harvard University; Francis Schmitt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Glenn T. Seaborg, University of California; Edward Teller, University of Chicago; and Charles A. Thomas, Monsanto Chemical Company.

British Atom

According to recent announcements, the atomic pile at Harwell Research Station in England will start operating very shortly. The "Gleep" (Graphite Low Energy Pile) is already in operation at Harwell, yielding 160 samples of radioactive chemicals a month. It is hoped that increased production from the new pile will provide enough atomic byproducts for Britain's own immediate needs and a possible surplus for export to the Continent.

Honors, Appointments, Awards

Dr. Alfred E. Badger, of the research staff of Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Company, has been elected a Fellow of the British Society of Glass Technology.

At a special meeting of the Board of Governors of the Argonne National Laboratory, Dr. John T. Tate, University of Minnesota, was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the year 1948-49. Dr. F. Wheeler Loomis, University of Illinois, was elected Chairman of the Council of participating institutions.

Dr. Churchill Eisenhart, Chief of the Statistical Engineering Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society of Great Britain.

The following have been recipients of Research Corporation grants: Isadore Amdur, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (a study of atomic and molecular inter-

action potentials); J. H. Dawson, Pennsylvania State College (a qualitative and quantitative study of liquid turbulence); Robert B. Dean, University of Oregon (forces of attraction between molecules of vapors and monolayers on water); Robert H. Dicke, Princeton University (a precision measurement of the gyromagnetic ratio of quasi-free electrons); Lawrence M. Langer, Indiana University (a study of the beta disintegration process); Walter C. Michels and A. L. Patterson, Bryn Mawr College (properties of solids); and S. H. Nedermeyer, University of Washington (development of ultra-fast counters and techniques for measuring ultra-short time intervals).

Retires

Dr. J. Howard Dellinger, Chief of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards, retired on April 30, after forty years of government service.

Dr. Dellinger joined the Bureau of Standards staff in 1907 and became Chief of the Radio Section when it was established in 1919. During the second world war he directed the work of the Interservice Radio Propagation Laboratory for the Armed Services Joint Communications Board.

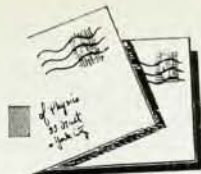
Club Activities

For its regular monthly meeting the Lehigh Valley Physics Club joined the Lehigh Section of the American Chemical Society on April 16 to hear Dr. Walter R. Smith, chief research chemist for Godfrey L. Cabot, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts. Speaking on the subject "Some Adsorption Studies on Carbon Black," Dr. Smith discussed the properties displayed by this material in printing inks and in various natural and synthetic rubbers. He pointed out that although many of these properties may be interpreted on the basis of particle size, the nature or activity of the surface is also a factor. His interpretation of these factors was based on x-ray diffraction studies, on results obtained with the electron microscope, and on exact calorimetric evaluations of heats of adsorption.

At the spring meeting of the Kentucky Association of Physics Teachers, the following officers were elected for 1948: president, J. G. Black, Eastern Kentucky State College; vice-president, R. A. Loring, University of Louisville; secretary-treasurer, L. W. Cochran, University of Kentucky; representative on executive committee, D. M. Bennett, University of Louisville.

The Electron Microscope Society of America announces its officers: president, Perry C. Smith, RCA Victor Division, Radio Corporation of America; vice-president, Dr. Francis O. Schmitt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; secretary, Dr. Charles J. Burton, American Cyanamid Company; treasurer, Mrs. Mary S. Jaffe, General Electric Company.

At the annual meeting of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the following officers were elected: president, Professor J. G. Winans,



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University of Wisconsin; vice-president, Professor Edwin Schreiber, State Teachers College; secretary-treasurer, Professor W. P. Clark, State Teachers College; representative, Professor R. R. Palmer, Beloit College. The next annual meeting will be held at Lawrence College, Appleton.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society was held at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, April 9-10. A record number of 442 persons registered for the meeting. The following officers were elected for the coming year: chairman, E. S. Barr; vice-chairman, Philip Rudnick; secretary, Eric Rodgers; treasurer, H. F. Henry; member of executive committee, C. K. Beck.

New Publication

A compilation of the energy levels of the elements as derived from observations of atomic spectra is planned by the National Bureau of Standards. The data will be published in pamphlet form and will cover all information accumulated in the past fifteen years plus any previously available material. The first section of this work, a circular covering hydrogen through fluorine, is now available.

The first American book on this subject, "Atomic Energy States," by R. F. Bacher and S. Goudsmit, published in 1932, contained the atomic energy levels of 231 spectra of 69 elements. Today this number exceeds 460, representing 82 elements, and the number of known energy levels is greater by a factor of four or five. The project is under the direction of Dr. W. F. Meggers, who is contacting all active workers in the field to obtain unpublished work on spectrum analysis for inclusion in the publications.

Miscellany

The United States Atomic Energy Commission has announced that it will make available up to \$3,000,000 for physical research and \$1,000,000 for medical and biological research for a one-year joint program with the Office of Naval Research.

Announcement is made of the formation of the Jacobs Instrument Company, Bethesda, Maryland, which will undertake research, development, and small-scale production of electronic-optical-mechanical devices.

Availability of five new accessories for use in spectrographic analysis was announced by the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company. These include a densitometer, a spectrum plate projector, a safety arc and spark stand, an electrode shaper, and a briquetting press, all of which may be used with any spectrograph, regardless of make or design.

Dr. William Wilson

Dr. William Wilson, former assistant vice-president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, died on May 6, 1948, at his home in Raleigh, North Carolina, at the age of 61. He had been professor of physics at the University of North Carolina since 1946.

Sirs:

The first issue of Physics Today arrived this morning. I wondered whether the cover illustration was intended to indicate that much of the information to be published had heretofore been kept 'under the hat.'

CLARENCE W. METCALF
Engineered Advertising

Boston, Mass.

Not what has been under that hat! It was identified on the table of contents page as belonging to J. R. Oppenheimer.

Sirs:

... Stephen White's "A Newsman Looks at Physicists" hits the nail right on the head and I sincerely wish that every scientist could have the opportunity to read it.

STANLEY R. MARCH
Carnegie Institute of Technology

Pittsburgh, Penn.

Almost all comments on White's article were highly laudatory, but one physicist could not refrain from retorting that, while he was sure the great majority of physicists would prefer not to teach reporters better style, "we wish they would go somewhere and learn it."

Sirs:

Congratulations on Vol. 1 No. 1 of Physics Today. I found it very good reading, and enjoyed especially the "Journal Notes." I should expect that physicists generally would like it and that it might build up quite a good outside circulation.

OLIVER E. BUCKLEY
Bell Telephone Laboratories

New York City

Sirs:

... I was pleased to find that most of the articles were reasonably intelligible, even to me, a nonphysicist, and that some of them were positively fascinating.

HARRY A. BULLIS
General Mills, Inc.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Sirs:

I like the "Notes from Abroad" very much, and hope that it will be possible for you to broaden the coverage of this department in future issues. . . . I hope you will be able to explain for us in some future issue the details of "the disappearance of E. Majorana." . . .

LOUIS N. RIDENOUR
The Graduate College
University of Illinois

Urbana, Ill.

The grim reference Dean Ridenour quotes is from the May Notes on Italy by Dr. Amaldi, who may be able to supply further details.

Sirs:

I . . . would like to comment on one undesirable feature which seriously mars an otherwise excellent makeup. This defect is the abominable practice . . . of starting an article in the first few pages and continuing it at the back.

L. F. CURTISS
National Bureau of Standards

Washington, D. C.

The criticism is as helpful as the compliments are gratifying. Steps have already been taken to improve make-up along the lines suggested by our readers but, unfortunately, production difficulties make jumps a necessary evil for the time being.