

well rounded by wave action like that found along a shore line, together with manganese oxide and shark fossils, both products of long submersion.

The oceanographic expedition, under the direction of Dr. Robert S. Dietz, also located in the same vicinity three well-defined deep layers that scatter and reflect sound. Organisms, which migrate each morning from the surface to ocean depths and return at night, are apparently responsible, but it is not known whether the organisms are microscopic or large forms such as fish or squid. For a whole day, or a distance of 200 miles or so, the expedition ship sailed through huge masses of *Velella*, a two-inch-long jelly fish with a small crest which it uses as a sail.

Naval Research Laboratory

The Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., celebrated on July 2, 1948 the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding. Proposed in 1915 by Thomas A. Edison and other members of the Naval Consulting Board, the Laboratory's opening was delayed by World War I until July 2, 1923. Its original research program, which included only two divisions, Radio and Sound, has grown to require three divisions for Radio alone, and one each for Sound, Optics, Mechanics, Metallurgy, Chemistry, Electricity, and Nucleonics, with an operating force of 3,000 men and women.

Anti-Corrosion

The National Bureau of Standards, in a study made by I. A. Denison and Melvin Romanoff, suggests a method of combating pipe corrosion arising from local voltaic currents in the surrounding soil. To fight fire with fire, an electric current is directed to oppose the current associated with corrosion and the potential is raised to equal that of the surrounding area. Where electric power is uneconomical, as in the case of long oil and gas pipe lines going through remote areas, bars of electronegative metals (zinc, magnesium, or aluminum) connected to the steel pipeline under the soil serve to reverse corrosive currents. The Bureau has also set up an exhibit of around 3,000 samples of materials which were exposed to underground corrosion for periods as long as fourteen years. The specimens will be on display at the Bureau's Underground Corrosion Laboratory, Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street N. W., Washington, D. C. until August 15. A report of the corrosion resistance shown by the various materials is under preparation.

Placement Service

The Electron Microscope Society of America has set up a placement service for its members, who comprise almost all of the active electron microscopists in the U. S. Employers may direct inquiries to the Secretary of the E.M.S.A., Dr. C. J. Burton, American Cyanamid Company, Stamford, Connecticut.

Meetings To Be

A Gas Discharge Conference will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York on Oc-

tober 27, 28, and 29, 1948. Discussion will be organized around four main topics: I—Fundamental processes in the gas and at the electrodes; II—Breakdown phenomena—DC and microwave; III—Counter tubes—physical processes (not circuitry); IV—Operating discharges—glows, arcs. Papers and assistance with the program are invited. Communications should be sent to Mrs. M. K. Kuper, Executive Aide, Director's Office, Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The 1948 Conference on Electrical Insulation of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research, National Research Council, will be held October 27, 28, and 29 at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. The program is planned for all who are working in problems involving dielectrics. Volunteer papers on any technical phase of insulation are invited and in general will be allotted ten minutes each. John D. Piper, of the Detroit Edison Company, is chairman.

Miscellany

Beginning with the 1948 fall semester, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn will increase its tuition rates. In the undergraduate day school, the increase is from \$440 to \$500 for the academic year; in the undergraduate evening session from \$13.50 to \$15 per hour credit; and in the graduate school from \$15 to \$17 per hour credit.

The Office of Technical Services of the United States Department of Commerce has put out its fourth and fifth foreign patent protection program lists. Under this program, all possible steps are taken to claim foreign rights to federally owned inventions warranting protection—for example, the magnetic clutch recently developed at the National Bureau of Standards. Licenses under any foreign patents received are to be granted to American nationals royalty-free. The lists and further information on the program may be obtained by writing John C. Green, Director, Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

The American Society for Testing Materials has issued five 1947 Supplements to the 1946 Book of A.S.T.M. Standards: Part I-A on Metals, Part I-B on Nonferrous Metals, Part II on Nonmetallic Materials (Constructional), Part III-A and Part III-B on Nonmetallic Materials; together with an index covering all volumes.

Osgood Editor

Thomas H. Osgood, Michigan State College, who was appointed editor of the American Journal of Physics when Duane Roller, Wabash College, resigned in December 1947 after fifteen years' service, is taking complete charge of the Journal beginning with its September 1948 issue. The transfer of editorial responsibilities took place during the early months of 1948, at which time the Journal was changed from a bi-monthly to a magazine issued nine times a year. The American Journal of Physics is the official journal of the American Association of Physics Teachers. It was founded in 1933 as The American Physics Teacher, with Dr. Roller as its first editor.