

Honors, Awards

Six foreign physicists have been elected to honorary membership in the American Physical Society. They are: Louis de Broglie, Sir James Chadwick, P. A. M. Dirac, H. A. Kramer, Max von Laue, and Arnold Sommerfeld.

This signal honor, accorded only to foreign physicists, has been granted only ten times since the Society was founded. Past honorary members are S. A. Arrhenius, Sir William Bragg, Lord Kelvin, H. A. Lorentz, Max Planck, Lord Rutherford, and Emil Wiechert.

The six join V. F. K. Bjerknes, Niels Bohr, and Albert Einstein.

Dr. George Brexton Pegram, dean of graduate faculties at Columbia, was the honored guest at the annual alumni luncheon on the occasion of Columbia's 194th Commencement. A few weeks later, Dr. Pegram was appointed chairman of Columbia's advisory committee on educational policy. Dr. Pegram is head of Columbia's Committee on Government-Aided Research and was from the start one of the top leaders in the Manhattan Project. He had joined Columbia's staff in 1901. He won international renown in 1934-35 for work in collaboration with Dr. John R. Dunning on the absorption and scattering of neutrons. The decision to start work on the atomic bomb was made on the basis of his mission to England in 1941 with Dr. Harold C. Urey.

Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, and Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, were presented by President Truman, in a White House ceremony, with the Medal for Merit with oak leaf cluster in recognition of their work in atomic energy research.

Among the scientists of the wartime Office of Scientific Research and Development recently awarded the Medal for Merit in recognition of their outstanding services to the armed forces were: Leason Heberling Adams, Luis Walter Alvarez, James Gilbert Baker, Edward Lindley Bowles, John Ely Burchard, Harris Marshall Chadwell, Lee Alvin DuBridge, Melville Eastham, Alexander Ellett, Raymond Henry Ewell, William Alfred Fowler, Ivan Alexander Getting, Lars Olai Grondahl, Paul Magnus Gross, Clarence N. Hickman, Herbert Eugene Ives, Zay Jeffries, Paul Ernest Klopsteg, Irving Langmuir, Alfred L. Loomis, Robert Reynolds McMath, William Albert Noyes, Jr., Brian O'Brien, Linus Carl Pauling, Isidor Isaac Rabi, Louis Nicot Ridenour, Richard Brooke Roberts, Earl P. Stevenson, Chauncey Guy Suits, Frederick Emmons Terman, Alan Tower Waterman, Warren Weaver, and Edgar Bright Wilson, Jr.

The Royal Society of London elected four new foreign members on May 27: D. W. Bronk, Chairman of the U. S. National Research Council; L. C. Pauling, professor of chemistry at the California Institute of Technology; L. E. J. Brouwer, professor of mathematics at the University of Amsterdam; and Maurice Caullery, professor of biology at the Sorbonne.

The Washington Academy of Sciences has made its annual presentation of distinguished achievement awards to

outstanding scientists of the Washington area who are less than forty years old. Robert D. Huntoon of the National Bureau of Standards received the physical science award and Harry W. Wells of the Carnegie Institution of Washington the engineering award for 1947. An award for work in the biological sciences, a third in these annual awards, was not given this year.

Fellowships

The Atomic Energy Commission announced the names of 44 research fellows, to receive grants from \$1,600 for pre-doctoral study to \$3,000 for post-doctoral study at twenty-four institutions. The physical sciences were largely represented among the fellowships.

Society Activities

The American Physical Society announced that J. A. Bearden and E. U. Condon were nominated as representatives of the Society in the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Research Council. Their terms are until June 30, 1951. The Society also announced that E. F. Kingsbury has been selected as representative to the American National Committee of the International Commission on Illumination.

Dr. Otto Hahn and ten other Nobel Prize winners in the bizonal area of Germany have formed a new association called the Max Planck Society for Advancement of Science, according to a report in the Chemical and Engineering News. The Society is to take the place of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, dissolved in 1946 because of its Nazi affiliations. Complete freedom of research, aside from military investigation, has been guaranteed to the new group by the Allied Control Council.

The Physics Division of the American Society for Engineering Education has elected its officers for 1948-49: C. E. Bennett, chairman; E. Hutchisson, vice chairman; G. P. Brewington, secretary; M. W. White, F. G. Slack, W. A. Michener, H. L. Dodge, and J. G. Potter, members of the executive board, which also includes the officers named above.

The Physics Club of Chicago announced that its officers for the year 1948-1949 are: C. A. Whitsett, president; H. A. Leedy, vice-president; C. A. Benz, secretary; J. S. Kemp, treasurer; G. M. Webb, J. S. Lee, and J. W. Juvinall, directors 1948-51; H. M. Sullivan, director to replace H. A. Leedy.

Officers elected by the Detroit Section of the Optical Society of America, to serve until May 1949, are: David L. Fry, chairman; Karl W. Beyer, vice chairman; Daniel L. Harmon, secretary; and W. R. O'Neill, treasurer.

The Niagara Frontier Section (Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and vicinity) of the Optical Society of America announced its officers for the 1948-49 season: Galen Porter, president; Leland E. Havens, secretary; and Clair M. Birdsell, treasurer.

The Ohio Valley Section of the Optical Society of America was officially installed by Dr. Stanley S. Bal-

Continued on page 30