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NEWS *Continued from page 25*

lard, Secretary for Local Sections of the National Society on the evening of April 27, 1948, at the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. This new local section, with a membership of about fifty, is an outgrowth of the Ohio Valley Spectrographic Society, founded in 1944 in order to serve the technical interests of industrial spectroscopists and other optical people living in the area, which includes such industrial centers as Cincinnati, Dayton, and Middletown. Officers of the new section are: M. Eugene Merchant, chairman; J. F. Woodruff, chairman-elect; C. S. Mills, secretary-treasurer; and C. H. Aneshansley, Ivan T. Collier, Wendell R. Koch, and Richard Olt, councilors.

Officers elected by the Rochester Section of the Optical Society of America, who will hold office until May 1949, are: John H. McLeod, president; H. D. Polster, vice president; J. R. Benford, secretary; L. T. Steadman, treasurer.

SIGMA PI SIGMA: On June 8, the fifty-fourth chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma was installed on the University of Utah campus. The charter group included forty-one faculty members and students in the department of physics and in closely related departments. Edward C. Guilford is president.

Samuel Cooley

Samuel Cooley, chief mechanic of Columbia University's physics department for over forty-one years, died suddenly on June 15, 1948. A ready understanding and dry wit made him friends not only among research workers at Columbia but among physicists generally.

Ernest George Merritt

Professor Emeritus Ernest George Merritt, first dean of the Graduate School at Cornell University and a member of the Cornell Physics Department for forty-five years until his retirement in 1935, died June 5, 1948, at the age of 83. He was one of the original editors of the *Physical Review* and a charter member, first secretary and later president (1912-14) of the American Physical Society.

John Mills

John Mills, 68, physicist and engineer, who had been director of publications at the Bell Telephone Laboratories for twenty years when he retired in 1945, died the night of June 14 while visiting his son John Mills at Rochester, N. Y.

Dr. J. C. Stearns

Dr. J. C. Stearns, dean of faculties at Washington University, and one of the scientists who helped produce the atomic bomb, died on June 11, 1948, at the age of 54. He was president of Sigma Pi Sigma from 1941 to 1946 and was the author of a number of papers on cosmic ray phenomena.

PHYSICS TODAY