Scientist Reserve

Reserve officers currently engaged in civilian research, college or university teaching, or industrial research and development, or who in the past had specific research experience, are eligible to make application for assignment to an organized Reserve Research and Development Group. To the eighteen such groups which have already been organized, must be added twelve more in process and others in initial stages.

The Department of the Army has established this program to provide peacetime Reserve assignments which will be correlated with a scientist-officer's skills. The Technical Services of the Department of the Army submit research problems and projects to the groups.

NBS News

The National Bureau of Standards is continuing through 1948–49 its series of seminars presented for the past three years. The program this year is on high polymers, with six lectures yet to be delivered: January 6, Rheological properties of polystyrene, by R. S. Spencer; February 24, Some aspects of dynamic rubber-like elasticity, by A. W. Nolle; March 3, Reactions of free radicals with hydrocarbons, by E. W. R. Steacie; April 7, Variables which influence the properties of chemical rubbers prepared by emulsion polymerization, by C. F. Fryling; and May 5, The chemistry of some derived polymers of the vinyl series, by W. O. Kenyon.

The Bureau also announced that preliminary results indicate that molybdenum with a specially designed ceramic coating offers a promising combination for very high temperature service. This research, under the sponsorship of the National Advisory Council for Aeronautics, is being conducted in the search for materials which can operate in excess of the temperatures created by ramjets, pulse-jets, turbo-jets, and rockets.

Optical News

The Optical Society of America held its thirty-third annual meeting in Detroit, Michigan, on October 21–23 with a registration of 560, the largest on record for a meeting outside New York City.

Spectroscopy was given particular emphasis in the program, which also covered color, vision, and general optics. At the Friday afternoon session, open to the public and attended by about eight hundred people, Battelle Memorial Institute and the Haloid Company made the first public announcement and demonstration of xerography, a new method of graphic reproduction.

A unique feature of the meeting was a plant visit program on October 20, sponsored by the Detroit Section of the Society. Twenty-two organizations in the Detroit area had invited Optical Society members to visit their laboratories and plants, representing widely varying activities. About ninety people came to Detroit a day ahead of the meeting to visit the laboratories that interested them most.

An exhibit of optical instruments included displays of about ten companies. Here again, as in the technical program, the emphasis was on spectroscopy and spectrographic equipment, which is the principal interest of members in the Detroit area.

The dinner meeting was attended by 365 people. C. F. Kettering, recently retired general manager of the Research Laboratories Division, General Motors Corporation, spoke on the importance of optics to the automotive industry in such developments as high octane fuels for the forthcoming high compression engines. He also emphasized the important part which the science of optics must play in the further development of new sources of energy and in the conservation of our present resources of stored energy in petroleum and coal.

The dinner program was the occasion of the presentation of the Adolph Lomb Medal for 1948 to David S. Grey of the Polaroid Corporation.

The first issue of the Local Section News Letter of the Optical Society of America, dated September 1948, gives notice that it will be "a continuing, if somewhat irregular, publication." Stanley S. Ballard, Tufts College, the Society's Secretary for Local Sections, edits the News Letter and plans to make it a means of reporting informally to members, four or five times a year, on what the various local sections are doing. A directory of local and national officers was included in the first issue.

Society Activities

The Division of Fluid Dynamics of the American Physical Society, established in 1947, has been organized, its by-laws formulated and approved, and its officers duly elected. Executive committee members for one year are Jesse W. Beams, Howard W. Emmons (secretary-treasurer), Theodor von Karman; for two years, Hugh L. Dryden (vice chairman), Paul S. Epstein; for three years, Raymond J. Seeger (chairman), John G. Kirkwood. One of its first activities was joint sponsorship of one day's meetings of the June symposium on heat transfer and fluid mechanics at Los Angeles, under the auspices of the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, and California Institute of Technology. A large number of workers in the field, from all parts of the U. S., heard papers on the statistical theory of turbulence, viscous effects in compressible flow, interferometer studies, porous cooling, and heat transfer problems.

The Physical Society of Pittsburgh, the first local physics group organized in the United States, celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday with an anniversary dinner and meeting on Thursday evening, October 7. L. O. Grondahl, first president of the Society, reviewed the steps in the growth of the organization. K. K. Darrow, secretary of the American Physical Society, outlined in the main address of the evening the development of physics in the past twenty-five years. It was significant that although he stressed progress made by American scien-