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who was absent because of illness, John H. Dillon of Textile Research Institute made the presentation. After his own brief remarks, Dr. Dillon read the presentation address Dean Taylor had prepared for the occasion. In this address Dean Taylor reviewed Professor Tobolsky's research efforts in the fields of the elastoviscous properties of polymeric materials and the kinetics of polymerization reactions. In his acceptance speech Professor Tobolsky, instead of lecturing on technical matters, discussed the personal problems encountered by a scientist in his professional career.

It was announced at the business meeting on November 8th that the 1957 annual meeting would be held at the Textile Research Institute in Princeton, New Jersey.

### *Western Spectroscopy Association*

**T**HE Western Spectroscopy Association, organized in 1953 to fill the need felt by spectroscopists in the eleven western states for regular west-coast scientific meetings concerned with advances in the broad field of spectroscopy, will hold its fourth annual two-day conference at the University of California in Los Angeles on January 24 and 25, 1957. The program will consist entirely of invited papers, mostly describing "frontier" areas in spectroscopy, and there will be ample time for discussion. Among the subjects to be covered are relaxation mechanisms, coincidence counting, nuclear magnetic resonance techniques, and far infrared, free-radical, and shock-tube spectra. Applications will be described, as well as theoretical considerations. An exhibit of spectroscopic equipment is being planned. All interested persons are welcome to attend this meeting. Further information can be obtained from the Chairman of the Association, Stanley S. Ballard, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego 52, California.

### *The Scientist in Society*

**T**HE Society for Social Responsibility in Science will meet on Friday, February 1, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Hotel New Yorker in New York City. A series of papers on the role of the scientist in society will be presented. Scientists present at the meetings of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers are invited to attend. A dinner at a nearby restaurant will follow the meeting.

### *Audiology*

**A**N International Conference on Audiology will be held in St. Louis beginning the afternoon of May 13 and continuing through May 16. Partly supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the Central Institute for the Deaf, the Conference will include discussions on: (a) the assessment of auditory function; (b) the physiology of audition; and (c) the relation of hearing loss to noise exposure. The aim of



the Conference is to have scientists and clinical workers share views and findings on these topics. The majority of the papers will be invited, but some contributed papers will be accepted. Abstracts should be submitted to the program chairman, Ira J. Hirsh, Central Institute for the Deaf, 818 South Kingshighway, St. Louis 10, Mo., no later than March 1. Further information may be obtained by writing to the chairman, S. R. Silverman, at the Central Institute for the Deaf.

### Scientific Information

**J**OINTLY sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, and the American Documentation Institute, an International Conference on Scientific Information is to be held early in November 1958 in Washington, D. C., to provide for a thorough discussion of present developments and research pertaining to the organization and dissemination of scientific information, with special emphasis on storage and retrospective search. In planning and organizing this conference the sponsoring agencies hope that qualified workers in the field all over the world will prepare papers and will participate in the conference sessions.

Subject matter to be covered will be grouped in the following general areas:

1. Requirements of scientists for scientific literature and reference services: knowledge now available and methods of ascertaining their requirements.

2. Function and effectiveness of abstracting and indexing services for storage and retrieval of scientific information and possible development of such services.

3. Effectiveness of scientific monographs, compendia, and specialized information centers for storage and retrieval of scientific information: survey of present practices, trends, and new and proposed techniques and types of services.

4. Organization of information for storage and retrospective search: comparative characteristics of existing systems.

5. Organization of knowledge for storage and retrospective search: conceptual and mechanical problems in the design of new systems.

6. Organization of information for storage and retrospective search: possible development of a general theory of storage and search.

7. Responsibilities of governmental bodies, professional societies, universities, and research and industrial organizations for research and training in scientific documentation and for operation of scientific information services.

Participation in the Conference will be limited to specialists in the fields covered by the agenda. These will include authors of papers accepted for inclusion in the Conference program and members of Review Panels, which are the working panels, designated to lead the discussion of papers in each working area. Individuals may serve both as authors and as members of Review Panels, except that authors may not serve on Review Panels in areas covered by their own papers. In the interest of effective discussion it is believed that the number of participants must not exceed 150. (This

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