



THE INSTITUTE IS DEDICATED

ON Monday, October 21st, a ceremony was held to dedicate the new headquarters of the American Institute of Physics at 335 East 45th Street in New York City. Frederick Seitz, chairman of the Governing Board, formally presented the keys to the building to the Institute's director, Elmer Hutchisson, who responded with a brief review of the work of the Institute and plans for the future.

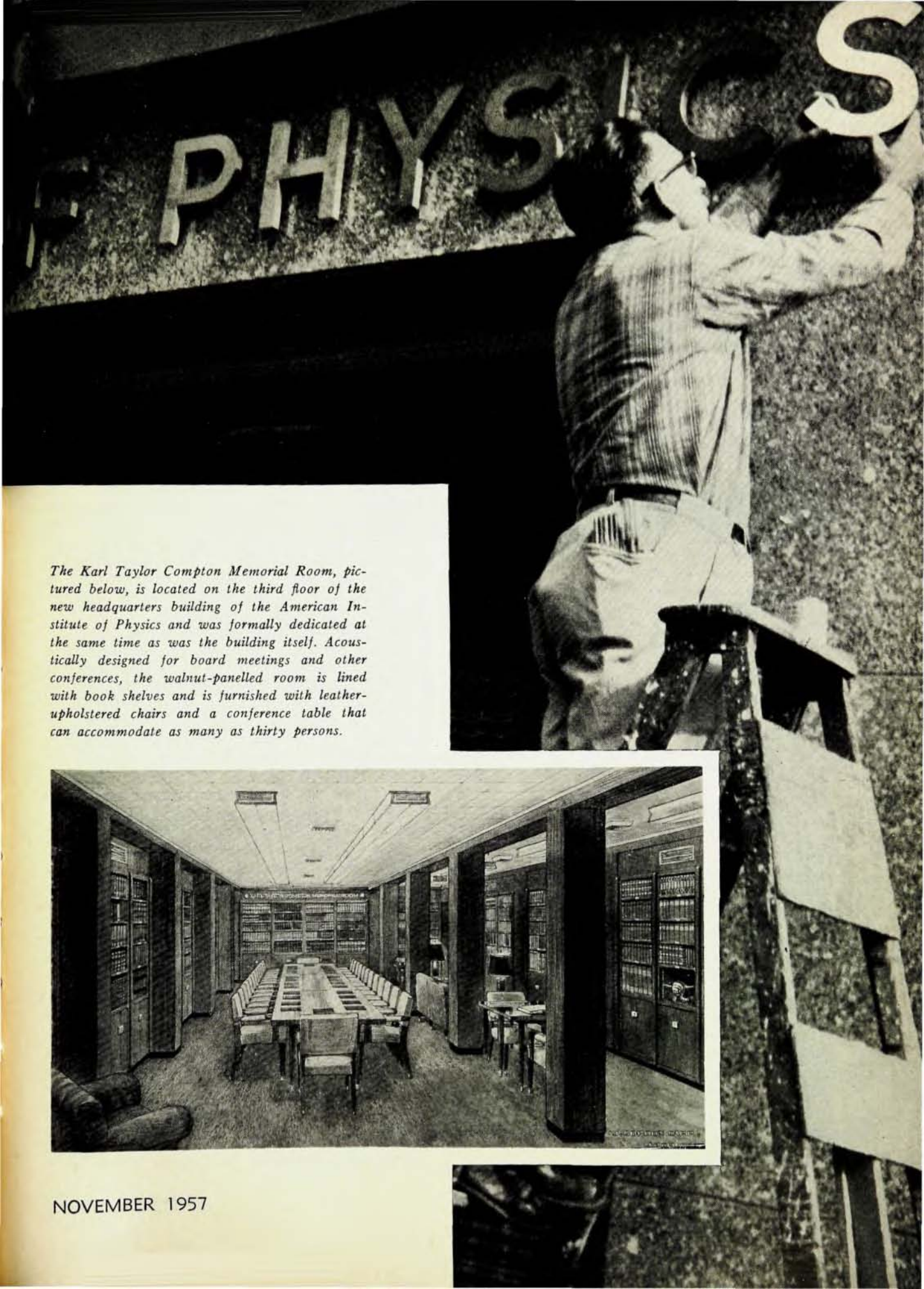
The occasion also offered an appropriate opportunity for the Institute to pay tribute to the memory of K. T. Compton, late chairman of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under whose leadership the Founder Societies cooperated in establishing the American Institute of Physics in 1931. As the first chairman of the Governing Board (1931-36), Dr. Compton guided the new organization with skill during its formative years, and thereafter, until his death in 1954, remained a willing advisor when his counsel was needed. The Institute, with the generous help of Compton's close friend, Mr. Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., has established the Karl Taylor Compton Award for distinguished service in the advancement of physics and has designated the board room in the new AIP headquarters as the Karl Taylor Compton Memorial Room.

The first presentation of the Compton Award, consisting of a gold medal and an honorarium of \$1000, was made during the ceremony to George B. Pegram, emeritus vice president and special advisor to the president of Columbia University. Dean Pegram, who served continuously as an officer of the Institute from the date of its founding until his retirement last year, was named the first Compton Medalist by the Institute's Governing Board in recognition of "His high statesmanship in

the field of physics; his devotion to the American Physical Society as a member for fifty-eight years and an officer for thirty-eight years; his principal role in founding and developing the American Institute of Physics and serving as its secretary and its treasurer; his wise counsel and guidance in the administration of the affairs of these organizations; his development of teaching and research at Columbia University; his administrative guidance of defense research in physics; his pioneer initiative in the development of atomic energy; and, in general, his kindness, wisdom, fidelity, vigor, and foresight in the performance of all those tasks, for which he has earned the unanimous regard, respect, and gratitude of physicists."

Among the guests was Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who found time during his brief stay in New York to visit the Institute and take part in the ceremony. As a former president (1950-51) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Prince Philip conveyed the greetings of British Commonwealth scientists to their American colleagues, and at the invitation of Chairman Seitz he made the presentation of the Compton Medal to Dean Pegram. Expressing the belief that "there is no body of people to whom man-made barriers mean so little as they do to scientists the world over," Prince Philip added, "I would like to see the day when scientists everywhere will work together, as they are now during the International Geophysical Year, for no other reason than the advance of knowledge and the benefit of mankind."

The tributes to Dean Pegram by Henry A. Barton and to Karl Compton by George R. Harrison will be found in the pages to follow.



The Karl Taylor Compton Memorial Room, pictured below, is located on the third floor of the new headquarters building of the American Institute of Physics and was formally dedicated at the same time as was the building itself. Acoustically designed for board meetings and other conferences, the walnut-panelled room is lined with book shelves and is furnished with leather-upholstered chairs and a conference table that can accommodate as many as thirty persons.

