

Institute doings

Science Writers Meet at AIP Headquarters

FORTY members of the National Association of Science Writers were guests of the American Institute of Physics on October 8th, when the New York Section of the Association held a press luncheon at the Institute's headquarters in New York City.

Following the luncheon, AIP Director Elmer Hutchisson spoke briefly on problems of communication, reviewing the Institute's own programs and objectives in three areas of major importance to physicists—archive publications in physics, relations with the public, and scientific manpower and education—all of which, he emphasized, involve the need for effective means of communication.

Because of the expanding level of research effort reflected by the greatly increased volume of published literature in physics, he indicated, it is imperative that the Institute find new ways to keep physicists abreast of developments in their own fields. For similar reasons it has become essential that an understanding of the increasingly important role of physics in modern-day society be communicated to the public. In that task, Dr. Hutchisson told the group, "we need your sympathetic cooperation, your imaginative thinking, and your very practical help."

Physics of Fluids

A NEW research journal, *The Physics of Fluids*, will be inaugurated in January 1958 as a bimonthly publication of the American Institute of Physics. The journal, under the editorship of F. N. Frenkiel, head of the Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Group of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, will be devoted to original contributions to the physics of fluids covering kinetic theory, statistical mechanics, structure and general physics of gases, liquids, and other fluids, as well as certain basic aspects of physics of fluids bordering geophysics, astrophysics, biophysics, and other fields of science. The scope of these fields of physics includes magnetofluid dynamics, ionized fluid and plasma physics, shock and detonation wave phenomena, hypersonic physics, rarefied gases and upper atmosphere phenomena, physical aeronomy, transport phenomena, hydrodynamics, dynamics of compressible fluids, boundary layer and turbulence phenomena, liquid-state physics, and superfluidity.

In addition to Dr. Frenkiel, the Board of Editors of *The Physics of Fluids* will include J. W. Beams (Uni-

versity of Virginia), W. Bleakney (Princeton University), J. M. Burgers (University of Maryland), S. Chandrasekhar (Yerkes Observatory), H. L. Dryden (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), W. M. Elsasser (Scripps Institution of Oceanography), R. J. Emrich (Lehigh University), J. C. Evvard (Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory), J. O. Hirschfelder (University of Wisconsin), J. Kaplan (University of California, Los Angeles), J. G. Kirkwood (Yale University), G. Kuerti (Case Institute of Technology), A. M. Kuethe (University of Michigan), M. S. Plesset (California Institute of Technology), S. A. Schaaf (University of California, Berkeley), G. B. Schubauer (National Bureau of Standards), E. Teller (University of California, Berkeley), P. P. Wegener (Jet Propulsion Laboratory).

Subscription information can be obtained from the American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45 St., New York 17, N. Y. Correspondence on editorial matters should be addressed to the editor, Dr. F. N. Frenkiel, Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Md.

Back Numbers

PPROMPT dissemination of research results and other relevant information through the publishing of physics journals is the major activity of the Institute and is by far the most costly of its operations. Altogether, 157 different issues of the fifteen journals published by the AIP for itself or its Member Societies are printed annually. While most of the journal copies printed are mailed immediately to a total list of some 70 000 subscribers, it has been necessary over the years to print and store enough additional copies of each periodical to satisfy the continuing demand for back numbers by libraries and individuals. In some instances, offset reproduction of original journals has offered the only means of providing copies of out-of-print physics publications for those needing them.

During the past twelve years, which have seen a four-fold increase both in the number of journal pages published annually and in the quantity of journal copies printed, the need for overprinting and back number storage has emerged as a problem of disturbing proportions. To meet that problem, the Institute has initiated a study of the economics of overprinting journal issues and of the sales of back numbers. The ultimate purpose of the study, which is supported by a grant to the Institute from the National Science Foundation, is to determine the most practical and economical way of providing the contents of back issues of physics journals to libraries and individuals.

The survey is under the direction of Edward P. Tober of the AIP staff and will involve a full economic analysis of back number demand, production, storage, and distribution. The feasibility of reproducing out-of-print journal issues by offset methods or by the several forms of micro-reproduction that are now available will also be investigated. It is expected that the study will take approximately one year to complete.