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The two Symposia, at which 25 papers were read, were conducted in six alternating half-day sessions at the conclusion of the Congress. Symposium 1, "Physical Techniques of Crystallographic Interest", was organized by G. A. Jeffrey (University of Pittsburgh) and the introductory lecture was given by C. J. Gorter (Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory, Leiden) on magnetic resonance in crystalline solids. Symposium 2, "Electron Diffraction Studies of Solids and Gases", was organized by J. M. Cowley (CSIRO, Melbourne), Z. G. Pinsker (Institute of Crystallography, Moscow), and S. Miyake (Tokyo Institute of Technology).<sup>\*</sup> The introductory paper by Z. G. Pinsker and B. K. Vainstein (Institute of Crystallography, Moscow) dealt with structure analysis by electron diffraction. Pinsker, who read the paper, discussed conditions when the kinematical theory is applicable and recent Soviet theoretical and experimental work. In addition there were open sessions of the Union's Commissions on crystallographic data, crystallographic teaching, and powder diffraction methods as well as exhibits of various commercial and non-commercial devices such as apparatus, charts, new materials, and books of crystallographic interest.

These meetings, although well organized and made most pleasant by the many fine activities and the general hospitality of the Canadian, Quebec Province, and Montreal governments, suffered from the same difficulties of other large professional society meetings. It is certainly not surprising that the size and need for five simultaneous sessions (designed as far as humanely possible for minimum conflict) and short papers with inadequate discussion time contributed to make these meetings less satisfactory than the smaller MIT conference described above. It is the nature of the beastie and Professor W. N. Lipscomb (University of Minnesota) and his program committee and Dr. W. H. Barnes (National Research Council, Canada) and the local committee deserve a vote of thanks for a splendid job under conditions which at best were difficult.

David S. Lieberman

University of Illinois and

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

### Nuclear Structure

SOME 500 physicists and chemists from the United States and abroad are expected to attend a Conference on The Structure of the Nucleus which is to be held November 20–22 at the Rice Hotel in Houston, Texas. The meeting is planned as the first of a projected series of conferences inaugurated by The Robert A. Welch Foundation "with the object of stimulating and encouraging chemical research within the State of Texas". Invited addresses will be given by P. J. W. Debye (Cornell), Glenn T. Seaborg (Berkeley), D. H. Wilkinson (Oxford), Eugene P. Wigner (Princeton), J. Hans Jensen (Heidelberg), Ernest O. Lawrence (Berkeley), L. Van Hove (Utrecht), and W. F. Libby

<sup>\*</sup> For a more detailed account of this symposium, see the report by J. A. Ibers, *Physics Today*, October 1957, p. 26.



(USAEC, Washington, D. C.). Time for questions and general discussion will be made available during the three-day meeting. The discussion leaders will be T. W. Bonner (Rice Institute), G. E. Boyd (Oak Ridge), W. W. Buechner (MIT), R. F. Christy (Caltech), C. L. Critchfield (General Dynamics), M. Goldhaber (Brookhaven), R. Hofstadter (Stanford), E. Teller (Berkeley), A. M. Weinberg (Oak Ridge), and W. H. Zinn (General Nuclear Engineering Corp.). W. O. Milligan of Rice Institute, who is the Foundation's director of research, will preside. The conference is open to all interested scientists, but advance registration is expected. Further information may be obtained from the Robert A. Welch Foundation, 2010 Bank of the Southwest Building, Houston 2, Texas.

### *Annual AAAS Meeting*

**T**HE American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its 124th meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, December 26-30. Of interest to physicists will be a 3-session symposium on spectroscopy organized by K. W. Meissner, December 27-28. The symposium will cover current research in atomic spectroscopy, including wave length standards. William F. Meggers will give the retiring vice presidential address of Section B, with Raymond T. Birge presiding. Other subjects covered during the meeting will be "Neutrino Physics" by Frederick Reines, "Recent Advances in Solid State" by Park H. Miller, and "High Temperature Plasmas" by Alan C. Kolb. There will be a physicists' dinner to be held jointly with Sigma Pi Sigma on December 27.

Also of interest to physicists will be a number of papers on the history and philosophy of science in the sessions of Section L. The broad implications of relativity theory will be covered in the AAAS General Symposium, "Ideas That Mold Our Lives", which is to be held the evening of December 26 and the afternoon of December 27. H. P. Robertson and G. C. McVittie will participate in this symposium, and it is anticipated that J. Robert Oppenheimer will be the synthesizer.

The AAAS Annual Exposition of Science and Industry and the AAAS Science Theatre, with recent foreign and domestic films, will be prominent features of the meeting. Coupons for sleeping accommodations and advance registration will be found in *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*.

Further information about the meeting may be obtained from J. H. McMillen, Secretary of Section B, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D. C.

### *Molecular Spectroscopy*

**A** CONFERENCE on Molecular Spectroscopy organized by the Spectroscopic Panel of the Hydrocarbon Research Group of the British Institute of Petroleum will be held February 27-28, 1958, at the Institution of Electrical Engineers in London. The program will emphasize new techniques and recent devel-

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