

Meetings

Physical Science Study Committee

THE operation of institutes for high-school physics teachers was the subject of a special two-week conference of university physicists conducted by the Physical Science Study Committee at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology early this month. Twenty-five physicists* from many parts of the country gathered to study the teacher-familiarization aspects of the PSSC high-school physics program. The Committee plans to establish a chain of inservice institutes in major metropolitan centers across the country to familiarize high-school physics teachers with the materials and over-all approach of the new PSSC course. Several of the physicists attending the conference will direct institutes in their communities during the present academic year.

Convened by Walter Michels, chairman of the Phys-

* Those participating in the conference were:
James M. Barnes, Eastern Michigan College
John T. Brooks, Washington University (St. Louis)
S. Cannavo, Brooklyn College
Joseph H. Chen, Boston College
Clifton Bob Clark, Southern Methodist University
Irwin Goldberg, Brookhaven National Laboratory
Howard Laster, University of Maryland
George LeSuer, University of Buffalo
Stefan Machlup, Western Reserve University
Francis McCaffrey, Boston College
Darwin J. Mead, University of Notre Dame
Frank L. Moore, Clarkson College
Adalbert Mrowca, University of Notre Dame
Elmer Offenbacher, Temple University
Leonard Olsen, Case Institute of Technology
Lyle Phillips, University of Buffalo
Robert Rohrer, Emory University
Quinten Roohr, Bellarmine College
L. A. Sanderman, University of Washington
Urban Schnaus, Catholic University
Noah Sherman, University of Michigan
Newton G. Sprague, Indianapolis Public Schools
Charles Stephens, San Jose State College
Clifford E. Swartz, Brookhaven National Laboratory
Robert A. Thornton, San Francisco State College
Charles Whitmer, Rutgers University

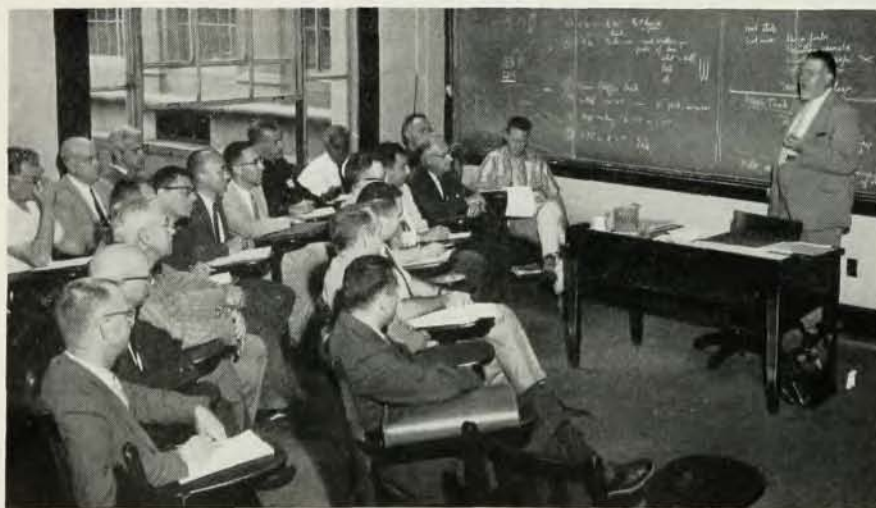
ics Department at Bryn Mawr College, the group examined many aspects of the Physical Science Study Committee program in relation to the physics background of the average high-school teacher. Subjects discussed included an outline of the course curriculum, the new high-school laboratory work proposed by the Committee, the testing program developed by the Educational Testing Service, a review of the Committee's texts, films, lab guides, and teaching manuals, and problems of organizing and directing teacher institutes.

Discussions were led by Dr. Michels, Nathaniel Frank, head of the Physics Department at MIT, Fred Ferris of the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N. J., Noel Little, chairman of the Physics Department at Bowdoin College (Maine), Kenneth E. Davis of Reed College (Oregon), Frank Verbrugge of the University of Minnesota, and Elbert P. Little and Francis L. Friedman of the PSSC staff. Drs. Noel Little, Davis, and Verbrugge presented their own experiences in directing NSF-sponsored institutes devoted to the PSSC course this past summer.

A significant outgrowth of the conference was an increased awareness of the need for closer cooperation between university physicists and high-school physics teachers. It was recognized that this cooperation will not only improve science teaching in the secondary schools, but it will also enable university physicists to better design their own introductory courses.

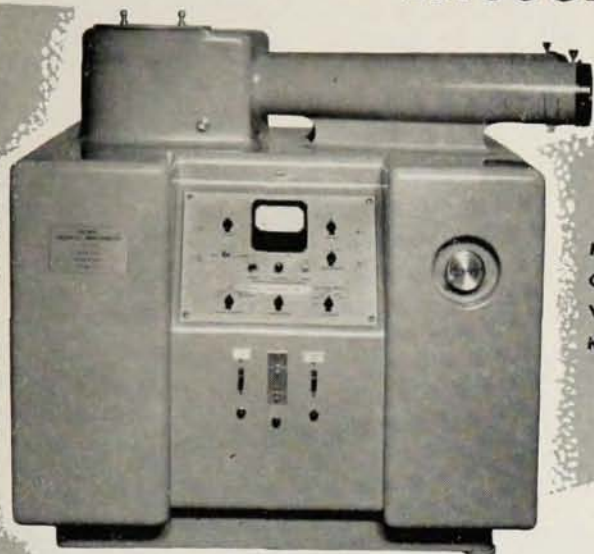
Air Pollution

THE National Conference on Air Pollution, to be held November 18-20 at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington, D. C., is an interdisciplinary meeting, called by Leroy E. Burney, Surgeon General, Public Health Service, US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, to explore the sources, extent, and health and economic effects of air pollution, as well as its control and administrative aspects. The Conference has been designed to permit the greatest possible participation, not only by air pollution specialists and the various governmental health and planning agencies concerned, but also by professional and scientific associations, physicians, engineers, industries, and others interested in this growing problem. Those interested in



Walter C. Michels of the Physical Science Study Committee addresses a conference of university physicists on the teacher-training aspects of the PSSC high-school physics program. Prof. Michels has taken a leave of absence from the Physics Department at Bryn Mawr College in order to work with the Committee.

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APS Western Meeting

THE Department of Physics of the University of California at Los Angeles will play host to members of the American Physical Society at the APS West Coast winter meeting, which will be held December 29–31 in the Chemistry-Geology Building on the UCLA campus. Included in the meeting sessions will be invited papers on theoretical physics, nuclear physics, controlled fusion, geophysics, and physics of the solid state. There will also be a special one-day session on high-energy physics.

Atomic Structure

ATOMIC structure is the subject of the second Robert A. Welch Foundation Conference on Chemical Research to be held December 1–3 at the Rice Hotel in Houston, Tex. Held under the sponsorship of the Trustees of the Foundation, this year's conference will feature the following principal speakers: P. J. W. Debye (Cornell University), Per-Olov Löwdin (University of Uppsala), E. M. Purcell (Harvard University), T. Nagamiya (Osaka University), Felix Bloch (Stanford University), Edward Teller (University of California Radiation Laboratory), L. Néel (University of Grenoble), and C. J. Gorter (University of Leiden). The conference is open to the public but advance registration is expected. W. O. Milligan, director of research for the Foundation, will preside at the conference. Further information may be obtained by writing to Dr. Milligan at The Robert A. Welch Foundation, 20th Floor, Bank of the Southwest Building, Houston 2, Tex.

Circuit and Information Theory

RECENT advances in information theory and circuit theory and the exploration of areas of interest common to both disciplines will be covered at an international symposium to be held June 16–18 at the University of California at Los Angeles. The symposium is being organized by the Professional Groups on Circuit Theory and Information Theory of the Institute of Radio Engineers. Submission of papers is invited on the following suggested topics: application of linear graph theory to communication nets and circuits, switching circuits and coding, specification and synthesis of matched filters, networks with random parameters, and characterization and optimization of non-linear filters. In addition to papers which report new results, those of an advanced tutorial nature will be acceptable. It is planned to distribute the Symposium *Transactions* in advance of the meeting. Deadlines for receipt of detailed 750-word summaries (in triplicate) and full-length papers (on specially provided master sheets) are December 22 and March 16, respectively. All correspondence, including summaries, should be addressed to Dr. G. L. Turin, Hughes Research Laboratories, Culver City, Calif.