



The 16th Richtmyer Memorial Lecture of the AAPT ("The Approximate Nature of Physical Symmetries") is given by Philip Morrison of Cornell University before members of APS and AAPT at the Joint Ceremonial Session on January 30. At right is J. W. Buchta of the University of Minnesota, recipient of the 1957 Oersted Medal of the Physics Teachers Association.



Formal presentation of Prof. Buchta as Oersted Medalist is made by Walter C. Michels (at left) of Bryn Mawr College, who served as chairman of the AAPT committee on awards. At right is Vernet E. Eaton of Wesleyan University, president of the Association.



Prof. Buchta, in his Oersted Medal Address, examined some of the factors important to the development of science, including the climate of public opinion, the nature and sources of support given science, and the role of education. Lauded by Prof. Michels for "his warmth, his deep intellectual honesty, his understanding of human problems, his willingness to work whenever asked to do so in a worth-while cause," Buchta received the award "in recognition and appreciation of his services to the teaching of physics".



Above (from left to right): Mrs. E. Hutchisson, Nicolaas Bloembergen, Mrs. K. K. Darrow, and Niels Bohr at the joint APS-AAPT banquet, on which occasion Prof. Bloembergen was awarded the Physical Society's Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize for 1958. At right: APS President H. D. Smyth, who presided at the banquet, and after-dinner speakers Elmer Hutchisson and James R. Killian, Jr.

Meetings

Annual APS-AAPT Meeting

ATTENDANCE reached what is apparently an all-time high for gatherings of physicists at the 1958 annual meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers, held jointly in New York City at the end of January. A total of 3314 persons registered for the meeting at the Hotel New Yorker, although the program itself was no more extensive than at last year's joint meeting. The morning and afternoon schedules of the Physical Society generally involved the usual five parallel sessions each of contributed papers in addition to sessions designed to accommodate invited papers. The AAPT program was responsible for additional sessions. In all, some 400 contributed papers and 40 or so invited papers were presented. Also included were the joint ceremonial session of the two societies, the joint banquet, and the annual business meetings. Although the sessions were generally well attended, the New Yorker's lobby and mezzanine remained crowded with physicists during the entire course of the meeting.

Thursday afternoon (January 30) was given over to the traditional APS-AAPT joint ceremonial session, which was successfully arranged this year to be held in the spacious Manhattan Center auditorium. Former Atomic Energy Commissioner H. D. Smyth of Princeton spoke on past and present relations of science and government in the US in his address as retiring president of the Physical Society. The AAPT's Oersted Medal, conferred annually for notable contributions to the teaching of physics, was presented to J. W. Buchta, associate dean of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts of the University of Minnesota, by former AAPT president W. C. Michels of Bryn Mawr College, chairman of the Association's committee on awards. Following Dr. Buchta's Oersted Medal Address, the Sixteenth Richtmyer Memorial Lecture of the AAPT was given by Philip Morrison of Cornell University.



Also included in the AAPT program was the presentation of distinguished service citations to E. C. Watson of the California Institute of Technology and Paul E. Klopsteg, associate director of the National Science Foundation, in recognition of their many contributions to the improvement of physics teaching. At the banquet on Friday evening, January 31, the Physical Society's Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize for 1958 was awarded to Nicolaas Bloembergen, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics at Harvard University, who designed the first solid-state maser. The presentation was made by President Smyth for Dr. Bloembergen's "studies of magnetic resonance, both nuclear and electronic, and of its uses in the investigation of solids, liquids, and gases". The Buckley Prize, endowed six years ago by the Bell Telephone Laboratories in honor of the Laboratories' former president, is administered entirely by the Society. It consists of an award of \$1000 to be given by APS to a person adjudged to have made a most important contribution to the advancement of knowledge in solid-state physics within the five-year period immediately preceding the award.

After-dinner addresses at the banquet were given by Elmer Hutchisson, director of the American Institute of Physics, and James R. Killian, Jr., President Eisenhower's special assistant for science and technology. Dr. Hutchisson discussed some urgent problems now facing physicists in terms of their communicating with one another and with the public at large. Much of the Institute's current effort, he emphasized, is devoted to meeting and solving these problems through active programs in journal publishing, education, and public relations. Dr. Killian summarized steps taken recently by the federal government to develop and pursue a sound national science policy—including the reconstruction of the President's Science Advisory Committee in the White House, the creation of Dr. Killian's own office, the decision to re-establish the science office in the State Department, and the support given the plan to appoint science advisers to the NATO organization.

Officers were elected at the annual meetings of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers. Jesse W. Beams, chairman of the University of Virginia Physics Department, became Dr. Smyth's successor as APS president, and George E. Uhlenbeck was elected vice president of the Society. K. K. Darrow and S. L. Quimby were re-elected as secretary and as treasurer, respectively, of the Physical Society. Charles Kittel, professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley, and William A. Fowler, professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology, were elected members of the APS Council. For the physics teachers, Clarence J. Overbeck, professor of physics at Northwestern University, took over as AAPT president, succeeding Vernet E. Eaton of Wesleyan University. Francis W. Sears, professor of physics at Dartmouth College, was named president-elect of the Association and is to assume the



More than forty separate sessions such as the one shown in progress in the top photograph were held during the four days of the meeting at the Hotel New Yorker. The record attendance insured a full measure of work for AIP personnel stationed at the registration desks and at the adjacent message center, where everyone in search of anyone eventually put in an appearance. Newspaper science reporters were in considerable evidence and the press room in Parlor C was the scene of frequent interviews and press conferences. In the second photo from the bottom, R. W. Hayward of the National Bureau of Standards discusses questions of time reversal invariance with reporters; below, thermonuclear experts M. Kruskal, J. Tuck, H. D. Smyth, S. C. Brown, and S. A. Colgate endeavor to supply technically correct and diplomatically irreproachable answers to a barrage of loaded questions about controlled fusion developments at home and abroad.

presidency of AAPT next year. Sanborn C. Brown of MIT was named to succeed Dr. Sears as treasurer, Frank Verbrugge was re-elected secretary, and Newell S. Gingrich of the University of Missouri was elected to the Association's Executive Committee.

Northern California Physics Teachers

NORTHERN California's Regional Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers held its winter meeting December 20 at Menlo School and College in Menlo Park, Calif. It was attended by sixty physicists from California and Nevada. There were two invited papers: The first, entitled "Albert Einstein—Scientist, Philosopher, Humanitarian", was given by Julius Sumner Miller of El Camino College who had the privilege of working for a time under Dr. Einstein. The second was a "Report on the Activities of the Physical Science Study Committee" by John Marean on leave from Reno High School. Mr. Marean has been active as a member of the Committee since the end of the last school year and is now serving on it as a consultant.

Papers were presented in the morning and the afternoon was taken up by a tour of the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory at Moffett Field. There was some interchange between persons attending this meeting and those at the three-day American Physical Society meeting at Stanford University.

Reactors in Medicine

CLINICAL uses of nuclear reactors will be considered at a symposium to be held March 19 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The symposium is under the sponsorship of the MIT Reactor Biomedical Advisory Committee, whose function is "to encourage the biological and medical uses of the MIT reactor and to exercise control over its use in the treatment of human patients". There will be three short lectures, "Use of a Nuclear Reactor in Modern Medicine" by Joseph S. Mitchell of Cambridge University, England, "Short-Lived Isotopes" by Belton Burrows of the Boston University Medical School, and "Nuclear Reactors for Therapy of Brain Tumor" by William Sweet of the Harvard Medical School. These will be followed by a panel discussion by physicists, engineers, and medical scientists. Those interested are invited to attend. Further information may be obtained from C. J. Maletskos, Department of Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

Numerical Approximation

UNDER the sponsorship of the Mathematics Research Center, US Army, a Symposium on Numerical Approximation will be held April 20-23 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. The topics of the symposium include linear approximation, interpolation, Tchebycheff and other extremal approximations, expansions, and algorithms. One-hour surveys (including a survey of recent Russian literature) and 30-minute re-

search papers will be presented. There will be opportunity for formal and informal discussion. Among the approximately twenty speakers scheduled to participate will be the following guests from abroad: L. Collatz, L. Fox, Z. Kopal, C. P. Miller, A. Ostrowski, and E. L. Stiefel. It is intended to have the proceedings of the symposium published.

Persons interested in attending the symposium and those wishing further information should write to Prof. R. E. Langer, Director, Mathematics Research Center, US Army, University of Wisconsin, 1118 W. Johnson Street, Madison 6, Wisc.

URSI Spring Meeting

THE 1958 Spring Meeting of the International Scientific Radio Union, under the sponsorship of the US National Committee of URSI and the IRE Professional Groups on Antennas and Propagation, Circuit Theory, Instrumentation, and Microwave Theory and Techniques, will be held April 24-26 at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C. Following a combined technical session, to be held during the morning of April 24, there will be sessions in radio measurement methods and standards, tropospheric radio propagation, ionospheric radio propagation, radio noise of terrestrial origin, radio astronomy, radio waves and circuits, and radio electronics. Requests for further information should be addressed to John P. Hagen, Secretary, USA National Committee URSI, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C.

ANS Annual Meeting

THE American Nuclear Society will hold its fourth annual meeting June 2-5 in Los Angeles, with headquarters at the Statler Hotel. The Society, which is just over three years old, has grown to embrace a membership approaching three thousand, with nine geographic local sections and five student branches. Its membership is open to all professionally qualified individuals engaged in one or more fields of nuclear science or engineering. Leland Haworth, director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, is the current president of the Society. W. R. Hainsworth is general chairman of the Los Angeles meeting, and the Southern California Section, of which M. A. Greenfield is chairman, will act as local hosts. Correspondence concerning local arrangements for the Los Angeles meeting may be addressed to Dr. Robert L. Loftness, Atomic International, P. O. Box 309, Canoga Park, Calif. Further information concerning the activities of ANS may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, American Nuclear Society, Inc., P. O. Box 963, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy

THIS year's Symposium on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy will be held June 16-20 and will again take place at The Ohio State University's Department of Physics and Astronomy. There will be discussions of the interpretation of molecular spectroscopic data as well as methods for obtaining such