

Institute doings

AIP Education Department

CONTINUITY in the functioning of the education program of the American Institute of Physics has been assured by the AIP Executive Committee, which has authorized the establishment of an Education Department as a regular activity of the Institute. The primary responsibility of the department will be: (1) to encourage students to study physics and to make physics their profession; (2) to strengthen physics instruction at elementary and secondary school levels, as well as in the college and graduate school areas; and (3) to assist committees of Member Societies in any activities related to the improvement of physics education.

The department will be headed by William C. Kelly, who has served as a visiting staff member of the Institute since last summer. Dr. Kelly is now on a one-year leave of absence from the University of Pittsburgh, where he is associate professor of physics. His new appointment with the Institute will become effective on July 1. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Kelly received his doctorate in physics there in 1951 and has been associated with the Pittsburgh physics faculty since 1943. He has been an active member of the American Association of Physics Teachers and for the past two years has directed the special study of physics teaching apparatus being conducted by a committee of the Association.

The Institute's education program was established last year with the assistance of grants from the Fund for the Advancement of Education and the National Science Foundation. These grants enabled the Institute to initiate its education program and to secure the services for one year of two visiting staff members: Dr. Kelly and Grant O. Gale, who is now on leave from Grinnell College in Iowa. As head of the new department, Dr. Kelly will continue to work closely with the various committees of the Institute, the AAPT, and other groups concerned with the improvement of physics teaching.

Elementary Education Conference

ON Monday, March 10, a group of eight persons interested in the subject of science education in the lower grades met at the Institute headquarters in New York City with members of the AIP staff to consider whether and in what manner physicists might be able to assist educators who are concerned with science

teaching problems in the elementary schools. It was generally agreed that physicists do have a responsibility in the matter, and that the Institute should cooperate with educational groups and other scientific organizations in their efforts to ensure the adequate preparation of teachers and the improvement of science curricula at the elementary level.

It was recognized that the problems of teaching science in the elementary grades differ considerably from those found at the college or even the secondary-school levels, which for physicists are more familiar areas of education. Intelligence and aptitude differences among students are likely to be very great in lower-grade classes and the teacher is faced with the enormous responsibility of nurturing rather than stifling the sense of curiosity of children in the whys and hows of the world about them. The need for skillful teaching of introductory science was emphasized at the conference, and it was agreed that physicists should become better aware of the problems involved and that the Institute should explore all avenues through which it may appropriately contribute to their solution.

The conference was under the chairmanship of George W. Hazzard of the General Electric Co. Others present were Mrs. Mary Demerec (West Side School, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.), Frank S. Freeman (Cornell University), W. Roger Rusk (University of Tennessee), R. J. Seeger (National Science Foundation), Morris Shamos (New York University), Hugh Templeton (New York State Education Department), and Mark W. Zemansky (College of the City of New York). E. Hutchisson, H. A. Barton, and W. C. Kelly represented the American Institute of Physics.

Placement Service at APS Spring Meeting

PHYSICISTS interested in employment opportunities in industry, the government, or educational institutions are invited to register with the AIP Placement Service, which is planning to arrange interviews between job applicants and personnel recruiters at the Hotel Shoreham in Washington, D. C., during the annual spring meeting of the American Physical Society. The Placement Service will be in operation from 9 AM to 6 PM on Thursday and Friday, May 1-2, with its headquarters desk, call board, posting board, and interviewing tables located in the Bird Cage Walk on the hotel's main floor. The last time the Placement Service was set up at a Washington meeting of the Physical Society was in 1954.

While it is hoped that all registrations will be completed in advance, physicists who have not had an opportunity to register before the meeting will be free to make use of the services furnished by the Placement Office. Lists of job openings will be posted and a complete file of applicants for employment will be made available upon request.

All inquiries should be addressed to the Placement Service Office, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y.