
Miscellany

Publications

A 350-page basic work on vacuum technology has been assembled by a team of members of the French Society of Vacuum Engineers and Technicians, under the direction of Max Morand, and has been published by the French National Association for Technical Research under the title, *Practical Treatise on Vacuum Technique*. The *Treatise* will be followed by the publication of a series of specialized pamphlets dealing with various applications or problems involving vacuum technique. Topics to be covered will include vacuum in metallurgy, vaporization and metallization under vacuum, quantity determination of gases under low pressure, molecular distillation, vacuum in pharmacy and food industries, impregnation and drying under vacuum, the manufacture of vacuum tubes, and glasses and ceramics used in vacuum technique. Further information concerning the *Treatise* (priced at \$11.25) may be obtained from GEP Publicity, 13 rue de Téhéran, Paris 8, France.

A bibliography of 2274 references to published unclassified information concerning both theoretical and applied aspects of space exploration has been compiled by M. Benton of the US Naval Research Laboratory. Included are books, periodical articles, research reports, and some news reports covering the period from 1903 through June 1958. Information on the Navy's Vanguard, the Russian Sputniks, and the Army's Explorers is also included. The 278-page publication, PB 131755, *The Literature of Space Science and Exploration*, may be ordered from the Office of Technical Services, US Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., for \$4.

The publication *Physics Abstracts* is understood to be in need of the services of physicists who are competent to prepare abstracts from original articles written in Slavic languages, particularly Russian. Those interested in further details should write to the editor of *Physics Abstracts*, Dr. B. M. Crowther, c/o The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W. C. 2, England.

A new editorial staff has taken over the direction of the quarterly journal, *Mathematical Tables and Other Aids to Computation*, which is published by the Division of Mathematics of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. Harry Polachek, technical director of the Applied Mathematics Laboratory of the David Taylor Model Basin, Washington 7,

D. C., has been named chairman of the journal's editorial committee and all contributions to the publication should be sent directly to him. Other members of the committee are C. C. Craig, A. Fletcher, E. Isaacson, D. Shanks, C. V. L. Smith, A. H. Taub, C. B. Tompkins, and J. W. Wrench, Jr. Correspondence on non-editorial matters should continue to be sent to the National Academy of Sciences, Printing and Publishing Office, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

The Technology Press of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has published a pamphlet entitled *Selected Books and Journals in Science and Engineering*, which is designed to be helpful in the assembling of a basic library collection of publications covering the various fields of science and engineering. The 58-page list is intended primarily for undergraduates, but includes reference works and some treatises and journals for faculty and graduate-student use. Compilation was done by Irma Johnson and other members of the MIT library staff.

Commerce Department Science Study

Appointment by the National Academy of Sciences of a special committee of scientists and research administrators to study the scientific programs of the US Department of Commerce and to recommend new steps to gear them to the rapidly changing needs of science and industry was announced in December. The Committee, headed by Mervin J. Kelly, chairman of the board of Bell Telephone Laboratories, has the following additional members: Horace R. Byers (University of Chicago), H. A. Leedy (Armour Research Foundation), C. Guy Suits (General Electric Research Laboratories), Abel Wolman (Johns Hopkins University), Augustus Kinzel (Union Carbide Corp.), Michael Ference, Jr. (Ford Motor Co.), and Frank W. Herring (New York Port Authority). John C. Green, director of the Commerce Department's Office of Technical Services, has been named executive secretary.

Commerce agencies under study include the Bureau of Public Roads, Maritime Administration, Patent Office, Weather Bureau, Coast and Geodetic Survey, National Bureau of Standards, and Office of Technical Services. The Committee will spend several months reviewing the operations of these agencies and plans to submit a report to Secretary of Commerce Lewis L. Strauss before next summer.

Awards

The American Physical Society's Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize for 1959 has been awarded to Conyers Herring, theoretical physicist at the Bell Telephone Laboratories, for his interpretation of the transport properties of semiconductors. The presentation was made at the annual joint banquet of the Physical Society and the American Association of Physics