

Gertrude Rand receives the 1959 Edgar D. Tillyer Medal from John Strong, President of the Optical Society of America, at dinner held during the Society's Spring Meeting in New York City last month. Kenneth N. Ogle (center) presented the Society's citation honoring Dr. Rand for her many research contributions in visual physiology.



Awards

The Edgar D. Tillyer Medal of the Optical Society of America was presented for 1959 to Gertrude Rand (Mrs. Clarence E. Ferree), research associate in ophthalmology emeritus of Columbia University. The award was made on April 2 at the dinner held during the Society's spring meeting in New York City. The citation was presented by Kenneth N. Ogle of the Mayo Clinic, who commended Dr. Rand's "accomplishments and scientific standing in the field of visual physiology, achievements which far more than fulfill the conditions set forth for the awarding of the medal, namely: 'The medal may be awarded by the Optical Society of America not oftener than once in two years to a person who shall have performed distinguished work in the field of vision, including (but not limited to) the optics, physiology, anatomy, or psychology of the visual system'."

For many years Dr. Rand and her husband, the late Clarence E. Ferree of Bryn Mawr College, worked as a research team on a wide variety of problems in physiological optics, and together they contributed more than 100 papers to the literature. After Prof. Ferree's death in 1942, and until her recent retirement, Dr. Rand served as research associate in the Knapp Foundation of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She also served as a consultant to the wartime Office of Scientific Research and Development and has been a member of the Armed Forces—National Research Council Vision Committee.

Another event at the Optical Society dinner was the first presentation of a \$250 prize for the best paper contributed during 1958, which was given to Gerald W. Farnell, associate professor at McGill University, Mon-

tréal, Canada. Dr. Farnell received the award for his paper "On the Axial Phase Anomaly for Microwave Lenses", which was presented before the society and published in the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*. A member of the faculty of McGill University since 1950, he is associated with the Electrical Engineering Department and is also on the research staff of the Eaton Electronics Laboratory of the Department of Physics.



Prize winner Gerald W. Farnell

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An annual award of \$250, to be administered by the History of Science Society, has been established by Henry and Ida Schuman of New York City for an original prize essay in the history of science and its cultural influences written by an undergraduate or graduate student in any American or Canadian college, university, or institute of technology. The phrase "cultural influences" is taken to include studies of the social and historical conditions that have influenced the growth of science, or the effects of scientific developments upon society in the realms of philosophy, religion, social thought, art and literature, economic progress, etc. Manuscripts (of approximately 5000 words) should be sent before July 1 to the chairman of the Prize Committee, Prof. A. H. Dupree, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif., from whom further information about the competition is available.

Societies

A Society for Applied Spectroscopy was founded on November 5 when, after two years of study, the governing board of the Federation of Spectroscopic Societies dissolved the Federation and founded the new national organization of individual members, with active local sections in Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indiana, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New England (Boston), New York, Niagara Frontier, Ohio Valley, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rocky Mountain (Denver), San Diego, San Francisco, and the South-eastern United States.

The purpose of the Society is "to advance the knowledge of spectroscopy in all of its various branches, promote the professional standing of its individual members through cooperative effort and assist the local sections in their pursuit of these objectives". *Applied Spectroscopy*, formerly published by the New York society, is now the official journal of the national Society for Applied Spectroscopy. The present officers of the Society are: president, William J. Poehlman (A. O. Smith Corp.); president elect, Mrs. Sarah H. Degenkolb (US Steel Corp.); secretary and national office, Rev. James J. Devlin, S. J. (Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass.); treasurer, Edwin S. Hodge (Mellon Institute); and editor of *Applied Spectroscopy*, Fred C. Strong (Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J.).

Another new society emerged on January 29 when the American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers combined with the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers to form the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The consolidated organization, which is a member of the Engineers Joint Council, has a membership of more than 18 000. Its officers are: president, Cecil Boling (W. Hartford, Conn.); 1st-5th vice presidents, respectively, Arthur J. Hess (Los Angeles, Calif.), Daniel D.