

Gell-Mann Awarded Heineman Prize

ON May 1 the Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics, endowed by the Heineman Foundation for Research, Educational, Charitable and Scientific Purposes, Inc., was presented for the first time under the auspices of the American Institute of Physics and the American Physical Society. The \$2500 prize was awarded to Murray Gell-Mann, professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology, at the banquet held during the Physical Society's spring meeting in Washington, D. C. The first of five such awards to be given at two-year intervals under the terms of the Heineman Foundation endowment, the prize was established to encourage research in mathematical physics and to recognize outstanding contributions to the published literature. The endowment fund is administered by the AIP and prizes are to be given to individuals selected in each case by a committee appointed by the Society's Council. Dr. Gell-Mann, who was chosen to receive this year's award by a committee consisting of APS President G. E. Uhlenbeck, Vice President V. F. Weisskopf, and Past President E. P. Wigner, was cited for his "contributions to field theory and to the theory of elementary particles as examples of outstanding publication in the field of mathematical physics".

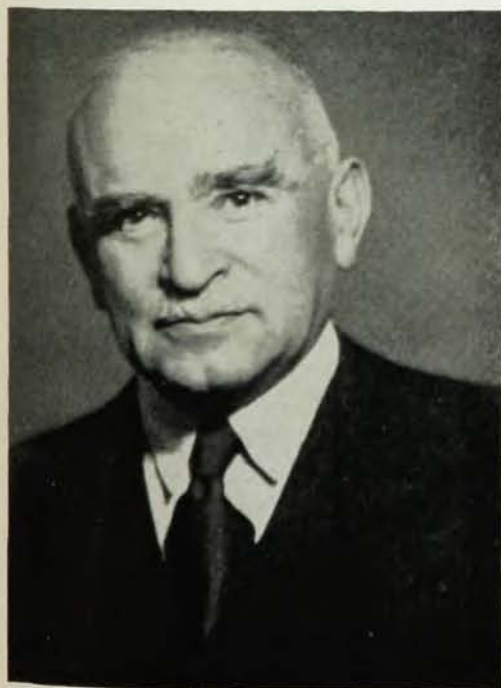
In connection with the award, Dr. Gell-Mann presented the Society's first Dannie Heineman Prize Lecture, entitled "The Decays of Strange Particles", in which he discussed the concept of "strangeness" in accounting for the extended decay times of unstable particles originating in high-energy nuclear collisions, reviewed the current state of knowledge and speculation



Murray Gell-Mann

concerning the weak interactions which lead to their eventual decay, suggested the possibility that certain symmetry characteristics of the interactions might help to explain why "strange" particles decay as they do, and entered a plea for results of several crucial experiments that will be decisive in determining the theory. The youngest full professor ever appointed at Caltech (he is not yet 30), Gell-Mann received his bachelor's degree from Yale in 1948 and his PhD in physics from MIT in 1951. After spending a year at the Institute for Advanced Study, he joined the University of Chicago's Institute for Nuclear Studies as an instructor in 1952, became assistant professor in 1953, and in 1955, at the age of 26, was named associate professor of physics at Caltech.

Dannie N. Heineman, in whose name the mathematical physics prize is given, is an American who has spent most of his professional life abroad—chiefly in Belgium, where for fifty years until his retirement in 1955 he headed the firm of Sofina, a flourishing engineering management and holding company which has played an important role in the development of electric-power facilities and other public utilities in Europe, the Near East, and in Central and South America. Beyond his interest in the power industry, Mr. Heineman was also directly concerned with the economy and welfare of Belgium, and during World War I was among those primarily responsible for organizing emergency relief for the people of Belgium. Trained as an electrical engineer and versed in the progress of many sciences, he has for more than thirty years devoted much of his time and funds to research and educational projects. The Foundation which he and Mrs. Heineman established to perpetuate this work, in addition to charitable gifts made annually, has been active in sponsoring research in the sciences and in medicine. One such project, dealing with research in heart surgery, has been carried on in Charlotte, N. C., the city of his birth.



Dannie Heineman