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APS Committee on Topical Conferences

CONFERENCES on specified subjects in physics have occasionally been sponsored by the American Physical Society even though they have been organized under other auspices and have not been held in conjunction with the Society's regularly scheduled meetings. That this practice will be continued and expanded is indicated by the recent decision of the APS Council to create a special committee responsible for dealing with Physical Society sponsorship of topical conferences. According to an announcement appearing in the April 30 *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*, the committee will be under the chairmanship each year of the Society's vice president and its other members will be appointed annually by the Council. The 1959 committee consists of V. F. Weisskopf (chairman), Harvey Brooks, W. W. Havens, Jr., and W. K. H. Panofsky. This group ("in consultation with another Committee of the Council") is empowered to rule on questions of APS sponsorship of topical conferences, providing in each instance that the purposes of the conference are not in conflict with the stated aims of the Society and that its sessions are open to all APS members who may wish to attend. Responsibility for all decisions concerning programs, deadlines, acceptance of papers, etc., will be in the hands of those in charge of the conference. Although the Society is not committed to publish papers presented at such conferences, arrangements can be made for the subsequent publication of abstracts of contributed papers in the *Bulletin*.

The first topical meeting thus approved for sponsorship by the American Physical Society is a Conference on Neutron Capture Reactions, which is to be held October 1-3 in Los Alamos, N. M. Abstracts of contributed papers and requests for information concerning the conference should be addressed to Dr. Henry T. Motz, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, N. M. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is August 7.

Plasma Physics

INVITED papers covering reviews and recent advances in three broad areas (basic physical processes in plasmas, the general many-body problem related to plasmas, and the microwave properties of plasmas) will be presented at an International Plasma Physics Institute to be held from August 31 to September 5 at the University of Washington in Seattle. Organized with the aim of bringing together specialists in various disciplines related to plasma physics, the institute will be conducted under the sponsorship of the University, the Boeing Scientific Research Laboratories, and the National Science Foundation.

The program will consist of the following nine sections: introduction, survey of experiment, theoretical methods for collective phenomena, experiments on collective phenomena, quasi-equilibrium properties of plasmas, growth and decay phenomena, nonlinear effects, short-range interactions, and superconductivity. Invitations to speak have been sent to scientists in England,

West Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Australia, the Soviet Union, and the United States. It is expected that the meeting will be attended by about 50 invited speakers and 75 invited observers. Additional information on the institute may be obtained from Dr. James E. Drummond, Boeing Scientific Research Laboratories, Seattle 24, Wash.

Physical Chemistry in Space Flight

CONFINING itself primarily to papers on chemical phenomena underlying the gas dynamical problems associated with the flight of high-speed missiles and space vehicles, a two-day Conference on Physical Chemistry in Aerodynamic and Space Flight is scheduled to take place September 1 and 2 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Arranged under the joint sponsorship of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the General Electric Company's Missile and Space Vehicle Department, the program will consist of sessions on the following four topics (listed with the session chairmen): (1) surface and solid phase reactions (J. Margrave, University of Wisconsin); (2) gas phase reactions and kinetics (S. S. Penner, California Institute of Technology); (3) transport properties (C. F. Curtiss, University of Wisconsin); and (4) instrumentation and simulation (M. Zilikoff, Geophysics Corp. of America).

The chairman of the organizing committee, from whom further information on the conference can be obtained, is Dr. A. L. Myerson, General Electric Missile and Space Vehicle Department, 3198 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Radiofrequency Spectroscopy

THE autumn meeting of the British Radiofrequency Spectroscopy Group will be held September 17-18 at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, and will be devoted to the radiofrequency spectroscopy of free atoms and molecules. It will present sessions on atomic beam and optical methods, microwave gaseous spectroscopy, and the measurement of fundamental constants by radiofrequency methods. Interested persons should immediately contact Prof. B. Bleaney, Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, England, from whom registration forms and additional information can be obtained.

Metallurgical Society of AIME

PHYSICAL and extractive metallurgy will highlight the program of the fall meeting of the Metallurgical Society of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers to be held November 2-5 in the Morrison Hotel in Chicago. Of possible interest to physicists are the sessions to be held on the chemistry and physics of metals which will take place during the mornings of November 2 and 3, the annual symposium on titanium (November 3), and a full-day symposium on nuclear metallurgy (November 4), which will have as its theme "Effects of Irradiation of Fuels and Fuel Elements". Further information on the meeting may be obtained from the Metallurgical Society of AIME, 29 West 39th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

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