
Societies

American Association of Physics Teachers

SHOP drawings of apparatus for laboratory work and lecture demonstrations in college physics are currently being prepared, with the aid of a grant from the National Science Foundation, by the Apparatus Drawing Project carried out under the joint sponsorship of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics. R. G. Marcle, who is in charge of the project, has visited some twenty-five colleges and universities where special pieces of apparatus have been developed, and a number of the resulting drawings, together with descriptive notes, have been published in the *American Journal of Physics* in slightly abbreviated form to enable physics department personnel to decide whether such apparatus would be useful in their teaching. Adequate information has been included to permit shop construction of the apparatus, and care has been taken to describe special techniques so that students can help in assembling the equipment. Apparatus already described in the *Journal* (beginning with the January 1960 issue) are a Balmer series spectrum tube, apparatus for the magnetic field of a circular coil, an air suspension gyroscope, resolution of forces apparatus, Bragg diffraction apparatus for microwaves, and two mass spectrometers.

Eventually, descriptions of more than thirty different pieces of apparatus will be made available. The full set of drawings, including subassembly renderings of the more complicated elements, are being published as a bound volume, and also as a portfolio of 11" x 17" shop drawings, by Plenum Press, Inc., 227 West 17th Street, New York 11, N. Y. Requests for additional information should be sent to the publisher.

IN June of last year a conference on lecture demonstrations in physics was held at Wesleyan University to consider the role of demonstration lecturing as a contribution to the teaching of physics at the college level. A brief account of the discussions, as reported by B. F. Wissler, appeared in the November 1959 issue of *Physics Today*. A more detailed view of the conference is now available in the published *Proceedings*, which have been issued as a 91-page illustrated booklet containing many suggestions to physics departments for the improvement of lecture demonstrations.

Sponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers with the support of the National Science Foundation, the conference was attended by 43 persons,

including several college and university teachers known for their proficiency in presenting lecture demonstrations, as well as school administrators, custodians of equipment, and manufacturers of equipment for demonstrations. A limited number of copies of the *Proceedings of the Wesleyan Conference on Lecture Demonstrations* are available and, while the supply lasts, can be obtained without charge from Prof. V. E. Eaton, Scott Laboratory, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.

THE success of the 1959 AAPT apparatus competition was such that the Society's Committee on Apparatus for Educational Institutions is planning a second competition during the annual AAPT meeting to be held in February 1961 at the Hotel New Yorker in New York City. With support of a grant from the Central Scientific Company, prizes of \$500, \$200, and \$100, as well as honorable mention citations, will be awarded. Detailed plans will be published by the Apparatus Committee early this fall.

Optical Society of America

FOR the information of physics students who may be interested in specializing in the study of optics, a booklet entitled *Careers in Optics* is in the process of being assembled by the Optical Society. It will summarize the academic, industrial, and governmental opportunities which are available to individuals who have received training in optics, and it will include information about courses in optics offered by various educational institutions at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. The booklet will also discuss the availability of scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships. One section of the publication will contain descriptions of the type of work being conducted by specific optical organizations, as well as descriptions of "work-and-study" plans or any other special opportunities which may be offered.

The Society is seeking "vivid graphic examples" of what optics "is" and "does" in order to illustrate the booklet. Black and white or color photographs or ideas for illustrations will be welcome. Interested organizations and individuals have been invited to send their suggestions to the Society's assistant secretary, Miss Patricia R. Wakeling, Optical Society of America, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Acoustical Society of America

THE Biennial Award of the Acoustical Society was presented on June 10 to Ira Dyer of Cambridge, Mass., during a banquet held as part of the Society's 59th meeting at Brown University. The award, which was established in 1942, is presented in the spring of even-numbered years "to a member or fellow of the Society who is under 35 years of age and who, during a period of two or more years immediately preceding the award, has been active in the affairs of the Society