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We hear that...

The National Bureau of Standards has disbanded the Thermodynamics Section in its Heat Division and has named **C. W. Beckett**, former chief of the Thermodynamics Section, as assistant division chief for thermodynamics. The old Section has been replaced by the following four new Sections (listed together with the newly appointed section chiefs): Heat Measurements, **D. C. Ginnings**; Equation of State, **J. Hilsenrath**; Statistical Physics, **M. S. Green**; and Molecular Spectroscopy, **D. E. Mann**. In another recent staff appointment at the Bureau, **Ugo Fano**, formerly chief of the Radiation Theory Section, has been appointed special research assistant to the director for strengthening the theoretical content of the NBS program. Dr. Fano will also be responsible for a newly established Special Research Group in the Office of the Director. **Ralph P. Hudson**, chief of the Heat Division's Cryogenic Physics Section, will spend the coming year at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford University, England, as a Guggenheim fellow.

Eduardo Caianiello of Italy, director of the Theoretical Institute of Physics in Naples, and **Jack H. Piddington** of the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization spent the 1960 spring semester as visiting professors of physics at the University of Maryland in College Park. **J. Mahanty**, currently at Maryland, plans to join the Theoretical Physics Division of India's Atomic Energy Establishment at Bombay in October.

During its annual meeting, the National Academy of Sciences awarded its James Craig Watson Medal to Japanese astronomer **Yusuke Hagihara** in recognition of his noteworthy contributions to theoretical astrophysics and celestial mechanics. Dr. Hagihara, who served until 1957 as professor of astronomy at Tokyo University and as director of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory, subsequently was professor of astronomy at Tohoku University in Sendai until his retirement early this year; he is currently visiting the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass. During the same meeting, the Academy awarded its J. Lawrence Smith Medal to **Ernst J. Öpik**, visiting research professor at the University of Maryland and director of the Armagh Observatory, Northern Ireland, for his pioneering investigations of meteoric bodies.

David Layzer of the Harvard College Observatory was the recipient (on May 12) of the Bart J. Bok Prize, awarded by Harvard's Department of Astronomy. The prize was given to Dr. Layzer for a recent paper on atomic spectra in which he reported the results of a study yielding "simple quantitative predictions of the structure of the spectra of complex atoms, in close agreement with experiment".

Robert J. Manning has been named to the newly created position of regional application engineer for the Scientific and Process Instruments Division of Beckman Instruments, Inc. He will be in charge of the new Applications Laboratory at Beckman's Chicago regional office.

James A. Niederer has joined the Physics Department at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N. Y.

Berol L. Robinson and **Paul R. Zilsel** have been appointed associate professors of physics at Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Charles F. Robinson has been appointed as director of research in the recently formed Research Division which was created following a merger of the Bell & Howell Company and its California subsidiary, Consolidated Electrodynamics Corporation. The new division combines the research activities of both firms and will be located at CEC's headquarters in Pasadena. **John G. Heiland** and **Kenneth W. Gardiner** have been named as associate director and assistant director, respectively, of the division.

R. Smoluchowski of the Carnegie Institute of Technology has been appointed to the faculty of Princeton University as professor in the School of Engineering, where he will be in charge of an interdepartmental solid-state physics program.

Lewis V. Spencer, professor of physics at Ottawa University in Kansas and a consultant to the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, has been presented the OCDM's Distinguished Service Award for "outstanding contributions to the science of radiation shielding and to the Nation's fallout shelter program".

Harold P. Stephenson, currently at Duke University, has been named chairman of the Physics Department at Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, N. C.

On July 1, **Edward Teller**, professor of physics at the University of California, resigned from his position as director of the University's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore in order to return to teaching and research on a full-time basis. He has been succeeded as director by **Harold Brown**, who has been deputy director of the Livermore facilities since last year. Dr. Teller will continue as associate director of the Radiation Laboratory and has in addition been named as the second professor at large ever to be appointed in the Statewide University. The other professor at large is **Harold C. Urey**, now at the University's La Jolla campus.

Midwestern Universities Research Association has elected **Bernard Waldman** of the University of Notre Dame to serve as director of its Madison (Wisc.) laboratory for the year beginning July 1. He succeeds **R. O. Rollefson**, who has directed the laboratory for the past three years and will now return to the University of Wisconsin on a full-time basis. **Keith R. Symon**, who has served MURA in the capacity of technical director for the past two years, has at his own request been relieved of that duty so that he will be able to devote more time to research at MURA and to teaching at the University of Wisconsin.

Robert L. Wolke, formerly of the University of Florida, has accepted an appointment as associate professor of nuclear chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh.

Elmer L. Zimmerman, formerly of Atomic International, has joined Hughes Aircraft Company in Los Angeles, where he will head nuclear circuitry research in the Nuclear Electronics Laboratory.

Harold Zirin of the University of Colorado's High-Altitude Observatory is planning to leave for a six-month stay in Russia in September (if the visit is approved by Soviet officials), in order to carry out studies in solar physics at a Crimean observatory as a Guggenheim fellow.

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