SCIENCE EDUCATION

Opportunities for Overseas Assignments

In anticipation of a growing need for personnel by the international programs in which it cooperates, the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council is compiling a register of American scientists and other specialists who are interested in possibilities of assignments abroad for periods ranging from a few weeks to two years. Such assignments become available at irregular intervals throughout the year, and they vary greatly with respect to location, duration, stipends, and responsibilities. Some programs sponsored by private foundations require scientists of high competence and reputation for short-term lecturing and consulting in one or more countries. Several government-sponsored projects call for specialists who are available for two-year periods, have had previous experience in certain geographical areas, and are fluent in Spanish or French. Under the exchange programs authorized by the Fulbright and Smith-Mundt Acts, young scientists as well as established science educators are welcomed as lecturers by many colleges and universities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Persons who wish to be considered for overseas assignments can be included in the register by filling out a special form, available upon request from the Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington 25, D. C. The return of the completed form does not constitute an application; the form merely provides a means whereby the individual may be considered for openings in his field.

AAPT Programs

A volume of reprints of articles dealing with physics apparatus for lecture room and laboratory has been prepared by the American Association of Physics Teachers' Committee on Apparatus for Educational Institutions. The articles were originally published in the *American Journal of Physics* and its predecessor, the *American Physics Teacher*. The Committee believes that physics teachers will want to be reminded of the existence of these articles and will find it convenient to have them within the covers of this single 300-page paperback volume. The articles range in publication date from 1933 to 1960, in subject field from mechanics to nuclear physics, and in length from notes of a fraction of a page to review articles several pages long. The eighty articles included were selected carefully, but not exhaustively, as ones that seem to make a continuing contribution to physics teaching.

Copies of the reprint volume, which is priced at $2.50 per copy, can be obtained by writing to Department 10, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y. A check payable to the American Institute of Physics should accompany the order.

Contributions are now being solicited by the Demonstration Book Committee of the American Association of Physics Teachers for a new text entitled, *A Reference Source for Demonstration Experiments in Physics*. The text will consist of detailed descriptions of demonstration equipment and their use in lectures, photographs, lists and sources of materials, and (where appropriate) shop drawings and circuit diagrams to facilitate construction. In addition, there will be invited articles on selected subjects such as the role and purpose of lecture demonstrations and the use of audio-visual techniques, including the overhead projector, closed circuit TV, films, shadow projection, and stroboscopic effects.

Emphasis in the selection of material will be put on demonstrations related to the fundamental concepts of contemporary physics. Some examples are: modern standards of length and time; use of frictionless pucks in a variety of demonstrations; kinetic theory demonstrations; demonstrations of quantum effects, such as the Franck-Hertz experiment and the diffraction of electrons; demonstration of the microscopic properties of solids, such as magnetic domains, dislocations, and the Hall effect; demonstrations of scattering and resonance phenomena; demonstrations of electric- and magnetic-field patterns; use of models, such as models of crystals, accelerators, and particle detectors; demonstrations of wave phenomena; analog techniques such as microwave demonstration of x-ray diffraction; satellite-tracking demonstration of the Doppler effect; demonstration of the velocity of light; and demonstration of the conservation laws of energy, momentum, and angular momentum.

Support for the preparation of the book has been provided by the National Science Foundation. The grant was made at the request of the AAPT and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which will act as coordinating center and fiscal agency for the two-year program. Harry F. Meiners and Robert Resnick of the Rensselaer Physics Department were selected as program directors by the AAPT. An Advisory Committee of six physicists, George D. Freier of the University of Minnesota, John G. King of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Melba Philips of Washington

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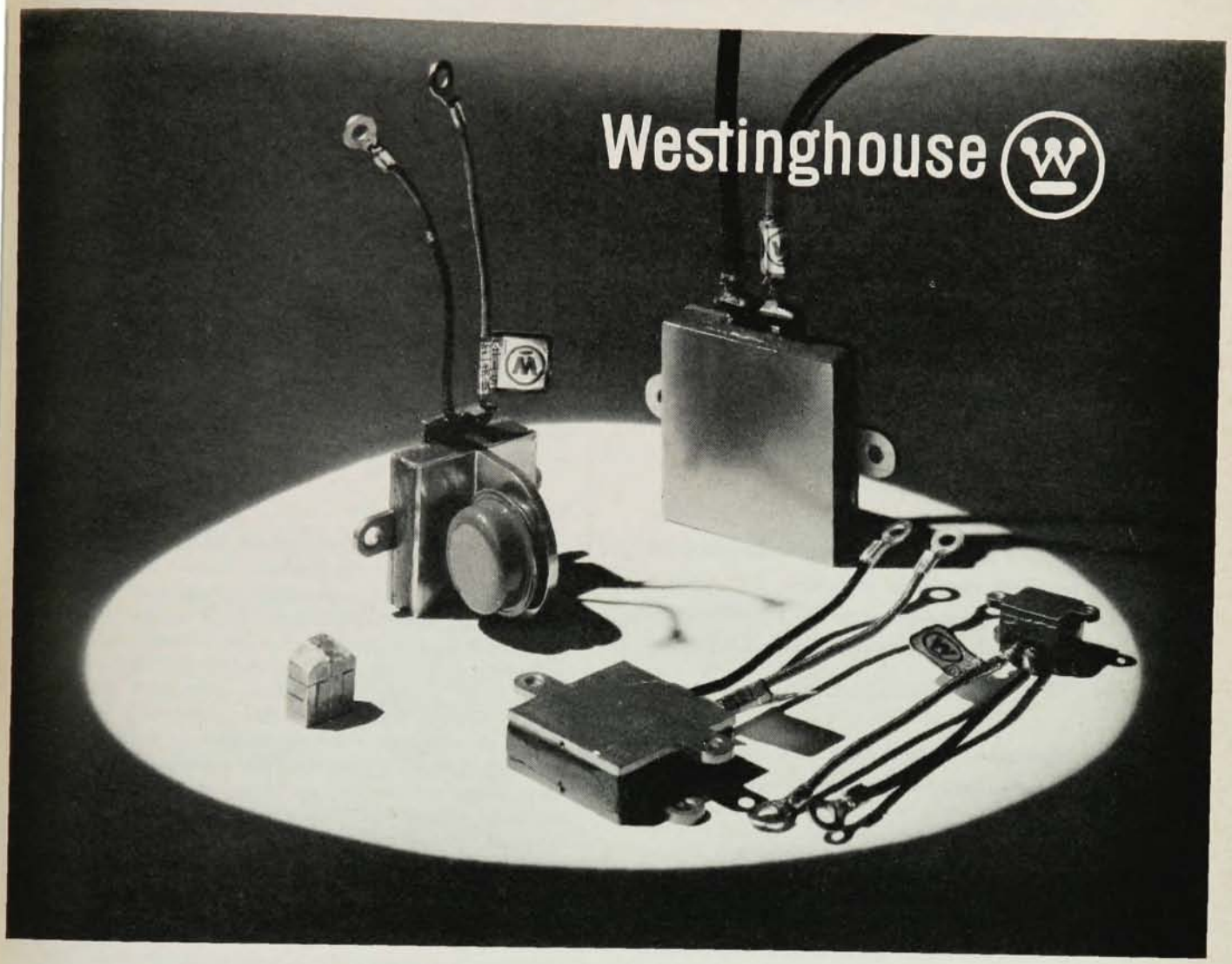

STANDARD UNITS FOR OFF-THE-SHELF APPLICATIONS

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WX816G	45°C	5 Watts	100°C	35°C	20 Amp	10% MAX.
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University, Howard A. Robinson of Adelphi College, Rolf M. Steffen of Purdue University, and Karl S. Woodcock of Bates College, will assist in the project. All royalties from the sale of the reference source will revert to the AAPT and be used to sponsor activities of interest to the Association. The contributions of all individuals will be recognized in each article and a complete list of all contributors will be included in an appendix.

A brochure, including detailed information on all aspects of the preparation of material to be submitted for inclusion in the text and containing sample demonstration contributions, will be mailed to all members of the AAPT, to the chairmen of all physics departments at academic institutions, and to research laboratories and equipment manufacturers. Other persons wanting copies, or contributors wanting further information, should write to Harry F. Meiners, Demonstration Book Project, Science Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y.

Visiting Astronomers

The American Astronomical Society, with the continued support of the National Science Foundation, has recently announced the fourth program of Visiting Professors in Astronomy. Participation in the 1961–62 program is open to interested colleges, junior colleges, and universities, and since one of the purposes of the visits is to stimulate interest in astronomy and to promote college curricula in the subject, the Society feels it to be desirable that the program include institutions which do not already offer astronomy courses. The visiting astronomers are prepared to give general lectures, address astronomy classes, participate in seminars, advise students on advanced study and employment opportunities in astronomy, and discuss teaching and curriculum problems with members of the faculty. Visits normally last two days.

Additional information about the program can be obtained by writing to Dr. Franklyn M. Branley, The American Museum-Hayden Planetarium, 81st Street and Central Park West, New York 24, N. Y.

Institute in Biophysics

Since its creation in 1955, the Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry Study Section of the National Institutes of Health, in addition to its customary function of reviewing research-grant applications, has been conducting special programming activities to stimulate the development of biophysical research and training. In this connection, the Study Section organized and sponsored an experimental conference, the Summer Institute in Biophysical Science.

Held in Cambridge, Mass., from August 28 to September 9, 1960, and attended by 63 mid-college students from sixteen outstanding small liberal arts schools, the Summer Institute was designed to demonstrate the ways in which the principles of the physical