



The Acoustical Society's Gold Medal was awarded to Georg von Békésy of Harvard.

ceived his PhD in physics from the University of Budapest in 1923, was associated for many years with the research laboratory of the Hungarian Telephone System and during the same period (until 1946) was a member of the Budapest faculty.

He was honored by the Acoustical Society on the 12th of last month during the Society's 61st meeting, held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia. The citation which accompanied the award said of Dr. Békésy: "He has witnessed the microscopic movements of the cochlea, measured the mechanical properties of its parts, and deciphered the electrical geometry of its transducing structures. Master of manipulators, maker of models, analyzer of motions, he has fathomed the enigmas and disclosed the elegance of the auditory system."

With reference to the award, a colleague, Director S. S. Stevens of the Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory, commented, "Dr. Békésy is a scientist's scientist. He hunts out the beauties among natural laws much as he searches the galleries for handsome pieces of early art, which he likes to exhibit in his laboratory to relieve the stark gleam of instruments that bristle with knobs and dials. . . . His joy is in the beauty of discovered order, and the pleasure he feels in a newly revealed insight shows through in the style of his communications to his devoted readers. It was really nature that devised the intricate auditory transducer and buried it deep in the hardest bone in the human body, but with such adroit and skillful craft has Békésy bored into its recesses, and diagnosed its modes of action, that the modern ear seems almost as much a matter of Békésy's contrivance as it is of nature's patient evolution.

"... Like all dedicated investigators, Békésy goes wherever his problem leads him. Sometimes we find him developing basic tools: probes, drills, micromanipulators,

microscopic scissors, phase-control circuits, or stroboscopes. At other times he pursues the secrets of anatomy, builds working models of the ear, or records electrical potentials across delicate membranes. And when the principles he is trying to establish can be clarified more easily in some other sense modality, he may turn to psychophysical experiments on the eye or the skin.

"... How did Békésy, a physicist, become interested in the human senses? He tells us that it all started when an economist asked him whether a major improvement in the quality of communication systems could be expected in the near future. This question, Békésy could see, entailed a further question: how much better is the ear than the telephone system? That was a good question, at least for a start, and we all know how Békésy glued tiny mirrors to the eardrum and recorded its response to sharp impulses, and how he pursued the problem relentlessly into the inner ear itself, where he recorded and measured the traveling wave as it sweeps along the basilar membrane and damps itself out near the helicotrema."

Optics and Spectroscopy

THE Optical Society has announced that beginning in 1962 it will be necessary to make a subscription charge for its journal *Optics and Spectroscopy*, which translates the Russian journal *Optika i Spektroskopiya*. The journal has been translated and distributed free to all Optical Society members for the last three years, an experiment supported by a National Science Foundation grant, whose purpose was to accustom individual scientists to reading a translation journal regularly rather than as an occasional oddity.

The NSF grant will end in December of this year, but the Society feels that interest in *Optics and Spectroscopy* is too lively to warrant discontinuing the publication. A plan known as the "Ois Club Scheme" has been evolved to offer special subscription rates to members of some sixty scientific societies throughout the English-speaking world. Rates will be \$7.50 to OSA members, \$11 to members of the Ois Club, and \$15 to nonmembers and libraries. Persons interested in the club scheme are invited to write to the secretary of their own society or directly to the Assistant Secretary, Optical Society of America, 1155 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., for further information.

High Schools Cited by AAPT

FOR the third consecutive year, the American Association of Physics Teachers has cited ten secondary schools in the United States for excellence in their science and mathematics programs with special emphasis on the teaching of physics. Each school thus honored receives a certificate of commendation from the Association and a donation of laboratory equipment from an instrument-manufacturing company.

The winning schools were selected by the AAPT Committee on High-School Awards, which is headed by

mathematical physicist

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation maintains a program of long-range industrial research projects at its Research Laboratory in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

The program includes such scientific fields as nuclear magnetic resonance, electromagnetic theory, nuclear physics, electronic systems, physical chemistry, wave propagation, data processing, sonics and fluid flow in porous media.

In order to implement our diversified program we have an opening for a Mathematical Physicist with a Ph.D. in physics, applied mathematics or electrical engineering with a strong interest in theoretical work. The applicant should have at least 2 years of experience in the use of mathematical techniques for the formulation and solution of physical problems.

Knowledge of transport theory, wave propagation or information theory are particularly useful. The research projects cover a wide spectrum from rather short feasibility studies to long term research programs in the fields mentioned. Specific projects involve the study of fluid flow in porous media, neutron and gamma-ray diffusion, sound wave propagation and digital computer processing of measurement data.

Our Laboratory is located in a small Connecticut town about 50 miles northeast of New York City. The facilities at the Laboratory are extensive and modern. Working conditions and fringe benefits are consistent with the highest industrial standards. Please send brief resume to:

MR. J. J. McNAMARA
**SCHLUMBERGER WELL
 SURVEYING CORPORATION**
 P. O. Box 307
 Ridgefield, Connecticut

Eric Rodgers, dean of the graduate school at the University of Alabama. The schools were categorized in terms of size and geographical location, and selections were made with the understanding that not more than one school in any single size category would be chosen in any one geographical region. The schools finally selected are listed below.

Large Schools:

West High School (Phoenix, Ariz.); Oak Park River Forest High School (Oak Park, Ill.); Lamar High School (Houston, Tex.); Garden City High School (Garden City, N. Y.)

Schools of Intermediate Size:

Culver Military Academy (Culver, Ind.); Melbourne High School (Melbourne, Fla.); Beaverton High School (Beaverton, Ore.); Glen Rock High School (Glen Rock, N. J.)

Small Schools:

Benjamin Franklin Senior High School (New Orleans, La.); Western Reserve Academy (Hudson, Ohio)

Officers

THE Division of Fluid Dynamics of the American Physical Society has elected the following officers to serve during 1961: chairman, C. C. Lin (Massachusetts Institute of Technology); vice chairman, F. N. Frenkiel (Applied Mathematics Laboratory of the David Taylor Model Basin); secretary-treasurer, Raymond J. Emrich (Department of Physics, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.); executive committee members, Wayland C. Griffith (Lockheed Missiles and Space Division) and Harold Grad (New York University).

Physicists in Medicine

THE American Association of Physicists in Medicine adopted its first formal constitution and elected its first set of permanent officers at a meeting held in Cincinnati last December. Under the provisions of the constitution, membership is open only to individuals who are primarily and professionally engaged in the application of physics to medicine and biology in medical installations or research or educational institutions. The objectives of the Association are to encourage interest and training in medical physics and related fields, to prepare and disseminate technical information in medical physics and related fields, to secure and maintain high professional standards for physicists in medicine and biology, and to serve and represent their professional interests.

The Association has 132 charter members. Officers elected by its Board of Directors for 1961 are president, Warren K. Sinclair (Argonne National Laboratory); vice president, John Hale (University of Pennsylvania Hospital); secretary-treasurer, Charles S. Simons (University of Michigan Hospital).

Inquiries about membership and activities of the Association should be directed to Dr. Simons at the Radiation Therapy Center, Ann Arbor, Mich.