

SOCIETIES

New OSA Treasurer

THE Board of Directors of the Optical Society of America has appointed Archie I. Mahan of the Applied Physics Laboratory in Silver Spring, Md., to succeed E. D. McAlister as the Society's treasurer. Dr. McAlister, the Society's treasurer since 1954, resigned following his acceptance of a position at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif., a location far removed from the OSA executive office in Washington, D. C. Since the Society's executive office was established, many operational activities formerly performed by the treasurer have been transferred to the responsibility of the executive secretary, making close cooperation between treasurer and executive secretary a necessity for the efficient handling of the Society's financial affairs.

AAPT Activities

UNDER the auspices of the American Association of Physics Teachers' Committee on Apparatus, the representatives of 34 companies engaged in manufacturing and supplying physics apparatus met in New York City in June to discuss the production of new physics teaching equipment for colleges and universities. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the preliminary results of the 1961 AAPT-AIP survey of apparatus for the teaching of physics. Eighty-six physics departments in the survey group had replied by the time of the meeting, and their tabulated responses to questions concerning their interest in 80 specific items of new equipment were discussed with the apparatus manufacturers. The preliminary returns indicated an encouraging amount of interest among physics teachers in many of the proposed items, a few of which are now being developed by manufacturers. Other new pieces of apparatus are under consideration, and the AAPT Committee is referring manufacturers to physics departments where prototypes of these items have been developed. A final report on the survey is to be distributed to apparatus manufacturers and physics departments.

SUPPORT for the preparation of a new source book on modern demonstration equipment and techniques in physics has been provided by the National Science Foundation, which has awarded \$102 800 for that purpose to the American Association of Physics Teachers and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Entitled *A Reference Source for Demonstration Experiments in Physics*, the new text will replace *Demonstration Experiments in Physics*, which was prepared under the sponsorship of the AAPT in 1938. The grant, which was made at the joint request of Rensselaer and the

AAPT, will be administered at Rensselaer, which has agreed to 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.

The new text will consist of descriptions of demonstration equipment collected from as many and diverse sources as possible, and will include, in addition to photographs and text, lists and sources of materials, working schematics, and commissioned articles on selected subjects. An advisory committee of six physicists, G. D. Freier of the University of Minnesota, J. King of MIT, Melba Phillips of Washington University, H. Robinson of Adelphi College, Rolf Steffen of Purdue, and K. S. Woodcock of Bates College, will assist in this project.

The Academies

THE National Academy of Sciences, at its 98th annual meeting held in Washington, D. C., elected Julius A. Stratton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to a four-year term as NAS vice president. G. B. Kistiakowsky of Harvard and Kenneth B. Raper of the University of Wisconsin were elected to three-year terms as members of the Council.

Thirty-five new members were elected to the Academy at the same meeting. Among them were William O. Baker of Bell Telephone Laboratories, Mark G. Inghram of the University of Chicago, William N. Lipscomb, Jr., of Harvard, Herman F. Mark of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Robert V. Pound of Harvard, Richard B. Roberts of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Charles D. Shane of Lick Observatory, Henry M. Stommel of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Leo Szilard of the University of Chicago, Frederick T. Wall of the University of Illinois, Alvin M. Weinberg of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and John H. Williams of the University of Minnesota.

The Academy announced in June that it has also elected the following four distinguished scientists from abroad as foreign associates of the Academy: Keith Edward Bullen, professor of applied mathematics at the University of Sydney, Australia; Boris Ephrussi, professor of genetics at the Sorbonne and director of the Genetics Laboratory of the National Center for Scientific Research at Gif-sur-Yvette, France; Werner Karl Heisenberg, director of the Max Planck Institute for Physics and Astrophysics, Munich, Germany; and Vladimir Prelog, professor of organic chemistry and director of the Laboratory, Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland.

AT its 181st annual meeting, held in Boston on May 10, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences elected its 31st president, Hudson Hoagland, executive director of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. He succeeds Kirtley F. Mather of Harvard University. Other officers elected at the meeting included William P. Allis,