

INTERNATIONAL

New ICSU Commission

Last September, during its meeting in London, the Executive Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions approved a resolution calling for the establishment by ICSU of a new interunion Commission for the Teaching of Science. Subject to the approval of the individual unions, it is contemplated that the participating organizations will include the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, as well as the international unions representing biology, chemistry, history and philosophy of science, mathematics, mechanics, and certain other disciplines.

The desirability of creating an ICSU science teaching commission in which the various unions might participate was discussed last spring at the first meeting of IUPAP's International Commission on Physics Education, and it was agreed at that time that P. Fleury, secretary general of IUPAP, should approach ICSU to discuss the possibility of establishing such a joint commission.

The new Commission will be responsible for undertaking the study of all questions relating to teaching, especially at the university level, which concern the interests of the various member unions. The initial meeting of the Commission is to take place this year, and ICSU has delegated the responsibility for its planning and organization to Prof. Fleury.

IUPAP Commissions Report

Much of the activity of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics results from the work of the numerous special commissions within the Union. Each commission has an international composition, and each periodically submits a report of its work, including recommendations for action, to the general assembly of IUPAP. The following are excerpts from several such reports made subsequent to meetings of several of the commissions which were held between April and September 1961.

Commission on Physics Education

Consideration was given to arrangements for an international conference, tentatively scheduled to be held next year, which would carry on the work of the 1960 Paris Conference on Physics Education but would be limited to a more restricted topic. It was agreed that such a meeting should be held elsewhere than in Europe or the United States, and that the theme of the conference should be "Physics in General Education". Its purpose would be the detailed investigation and consideration of introductory courses in physics, as distinct from general science, with emphasis given to such matters as the place of science in modern general education, the physics syllabus needed to illustrate the place of physics in modern culture, experiments in teaching physics,

the training and qualification of teachers, and the place of physics among other sciences.

In its association with Unesco, the Commission suggested that that organization might usefully address itself to several matters which are relevant to physics education, including a study of hazards in physics teaching laboratories and of necessary precautions against them, the production of lists of modern equipment suitable for teaching physics in underdeveloped countries, a survey of examination methods and systems, the establishment of an information center for scientific education, and wider dissemination of the *Proceedings* of the 1960 Paris conference.

Commission on High-Energy Physics

Most of the discussion at the meeting of this Commission centered about the various conferences on high-energy physics that have been or will be sponsored by IUPAP, including the 1961 International Accelerator Conference at Brookhaven and the 1962 International Conference on High-Energy Physics to be held at CERN, as well as the 1963 International Accelerator Conference, for which the USSR has been asked to assume responsibility.

The Commission also adopted the following resolution on the question of the establishment of an international high-energy accelerator laboratory: "Taking note of the fact that the meeting to discuss an international accelerator laboratory, which was scheduled for 5 September 1961 in New York, could not accomplish its objectives because of the absence of the delegates from the USSR, the IUPAP High-Energy Commission expresses its hope that another meeting can be scheduled in the near future and offers its good offices to help arrange such a meeting. The Commission hopes that further discussion will result in the establishment of a study group to consider the feasibility and desirability of building a truly international accelerator laboratory".

Publications Commission

The Commission on Publications has urged the various national committees of the individual member states of IUPAP to prepare at least annually a list of the serial and nonperiodical publications printed in each country. Several national committees, chiefly of the small nations, have estimated that such a task is possible and that they would be willing to assume responsibility for it. Among the larger nations, only the United States has accepted the proposal, the National Science Foundation being responsible for the preparation of the listings.

The International Standardizing Organization is continuing its work on the standardizing of bibliographic citations and of abbreviations of the titles of scientific periodicals. The problem of uniformity in the trans-