

MEETINGS

Combined Physics and Chemistry Course

FIFTEEN college chemistry teachers and fifteen college physics teachers met at Beloit College December 27-30 to discuss teaching a course combining introductory chemistry and physics. Three observers with an interest in combining chemistry and physics in secondary-school teaching were also present at the conference, which was supported by the National Science Foundation. About half of the participants had already taught combined courses and the other half were planning to do so. An address, *The Meaning of "Interdisciplinary"*, was presented by Harold K. Schilling, dean of the Graduate School at Pennsylvania State University. The conference considered the advantages and disadvantages of combined courses, suitable subject matter, and the special problems of laboratory work in such courses. Attention was directed primarily to the development of combined courses for science majors, although some attention was given to the possibility of courses adapted to the needs of students having major interests in other fields. There was general agreement that further development of combined courses is desirable both in colleges and in secondary schools. A committee was appointed to carry on this work. A full report of the conference is available for free distribution and can be obtained by writing to either Edward C. Fuller, Professor of Chemistry, or to R. Ronald Palmer, Professor of Physics, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisc.

Electronic Systems

LEADING mathematicians and scientists from the United States and nine other countries will be among the speakers at the International Symposium on the Application of Switching Theory in Space Technology to be held February 27 to March 1, 1962, at the Lockheed Missiles & Space Company in Sunnyvale, Calif. Sponsored by Lockheed and the US Air Force Office of Aerospace Research and Air Systems Command, the meeting will explore the new applications of switching theory and digital electronics presented by the problems of space travel, and will offer sessions on systems, new switches and storage devices, circuit logic, and related topics.

For further information, write to J. P. Nach, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Biophysics and Information Theory

BAYLOR University's College of Medicine and the Houston Neurological Society will hold an interdisciplinary symposium on Information Storage and

Neural Control at the Texas Medical Center in Houston from March 8 to 10. The program will deal with information theory, storage, and transfer in biological systems, as well as with the neurophysiological aspects of information storage and transfer and the information-processing functions of the human nervous system. For further details write to W. S. Fields, Houston Neurological Society, 1200 M.D. Anderson Boulevard, Houston 25, Tex.

NSTA Convention

MORE than 2500 science teachers are expected to attend the tenth annual convention of the National Science Teachers Association in San Francisco, which is to be held March 9-14. Five major areas of science education (curriculum, staffing, programming, evaluation, and instructional materials and facilities) will be examined critically by the delegates to provide a basis for the development of resolutions and recommendations for the improvement of science teaching at all levels. Additional activities will include a curriculum center for the display of recently developed courses of study and curriculum guides for all areas and levels, a display of demonstrations and experiments, a workshop conducted under the auspices of the Business-Industry Section of NSTA, a youth science congress organized by the Future Scientists of America, a "future science teachers" program for college and university students, a display of films and audio-visual materials, and an exposition of science teaching materials. In conjunction with NSTA, the National Science Supervisors Association and the Association for the Education of Teachers in Science will hold their annual meetings at the convention. Inquiries should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, National Science Teachers Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Optical Society

THE 1962 spring meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held March 14-17 in Washington, D. C. The headquarters hotel is the Mayflower. A broad program is planned, including a two-day symposium on vision. Invited papers on optical masers and other subjects, and an exhibit stressing important developments in optical instrumentation. The symposium on vision will take place on March 14 and 15 under the joint sponsorship of the OSA, the Inter-Society Color Council, and the Armed Forces Committee on Vision of the National Academy of Sciences. Invited papers and special reviews will cover five major areas of physiological optics (microanatomy and biochem-