AIP AND SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

APS-AAPT Meeting

NEARLY 5000 participants and more than five hundred papers combined to make this year's annual joint meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers the largest ever held in New York. Sixty sessions of contributed and invited papers, in addition to the traditional joint ceremonial session, a banquet, and several business meetings, were held during the four days between January 24 and 27.

The 1962 terms for officers of both societies took effect at the close of the meeting. This year's APS president is William V. Houston, honorary chancellor of the William Marsh Rice University (formerly Rice Institute) in Houston, Texas. In addition to his honorary chancellorship, Dr. Houston also holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Physics. He served as president of Rice from 1946 until last fall. John H. Williams, professor of physics at the University of Minnesota and a former member of the US Atomic Energy Commission, was elected vice president of the Physical Society. Before being named a commissioner in 1959, he served as director of the Division of Research of the AEC; he is currently a member of its General Advisory Committee. Karl K. Darrow and Shirley L. Quimby were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively, and S. A. Goudsmit was named to continue for another three-year term as the Society's managing editor.

Frank Verbrugge, acting dean of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology and professor of physics, assumed the presidency of the American Association of Physics Teachers. Dean Verbrugge, who for a number of years served as the secretary of the AAPT, has been a member of the Minnesota faculty since 1956. The Association's new president-elect, who will become president in 1963, is Vincent E. Parker, head of the department of physics and astronomy at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Ralph P. Winch, professor of physics at Williams College, continues as secretary. AAPT's new treasurer is Joseph Dillinger, professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin. Walter C. Michels, professor of physics at Bryn Mawr College, has taken a year's leave of absence from his post as editor of the *American Journal of Physics* in order to serve as chairman of the Commission on College Physics. During his absence, Alfred Romer of the department of physics at St. Lawrence University will serve as editor.

The annual Joint Ceremonial Session of the two societies was held on Thursday afternoon, January 25, at the Manhattan Center. The APS portion of the program was the retiring presidential address of President Seitz, who spoke on the subject of atomic defects in metals. The Oersted Medal of the American Association of Physics Teachers, awarded annually for distinguished achievement in physics teaching, was presented to a former president of the AAPT, Francis W. Sears, who is now chairman of the Dartmouth College Physics Department. Prof. Sears, who is the author or co-author of a number of widely used textbooks, taught physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for more than thirty years, becoming a full professor in 1943. In 1956, he accepted a visiting professorship at Dartmouth and at the expiration of the year was induced to remain as Appelton Professor of Physics and chairman of the department. In his Oersted Medal address, entitled "The Most Important Thing", Prof. Sears drew on his memories of the first Oersted medallist, the late W. S. Franklin, as a basis for a discussion of the intellectual aims of the teaching of physics.

The AAPT's Richtmyer Memorial Lecture, an address given annually in memory of Floyd K. Richtmyer, one of the Association's founders, was presented this year by Thomas Gold of Cornell University. Prof. Gold's talk, entitled "The Arrow of Time", dealt with the cosmological implications of time symmetry and asymmetry in the laws of physics.

At the APS-AAPT banquet on Friday evening, the Physical Society's Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize for 1962 was awarded to Bertram N. Brockhouse, research officer of Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. Consisting of a medal and $1000, the prize was given for Dr. Brockhouse's "outstanding contributions to the study of phonon-spectra and spin-wave spectra of solids by scattering of neutrons". Dr. Brockhouse studied at the Universities of British Columbia and Toronto and has been with Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., since 1950. The after-dinner speaker was Henry Allen Moe, president of the Guggenheim Foundation and of the American Philosophical Society. Dr. Moe, in discussing the difficulties of finding legal solutions to international issues, recalled a chapter of the history of the Middle Ages, in which trial by battle was employed in civil disputes as a means of establishing the jurisdiction of the court.

The annual business meeting of the APS was held

Lost and found: A student found a wallet during the New York APS-AAPT meeting in January and turned it in to the AIP office at the Statler Hilton Hotel. A search of its contents failed to disclose the identity of its owner, and the latter is therefore invited to send a description of the wallet and its contents to Physics Today, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

on Friday afternoon, immediately before the banquet; that of the AAPT was held on Saturday morning. At the AAPT business session, five Distinguished Service Citations were awarded. Donald S. Ainslie of the University of Toronto, Sanborn C. Brown of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gerald Holton of Harvard University, Thomas D. Miner of Garden City (N.Y.) High School, and H. Victor Neher of California Institute of Technology were the recipients of the certificates.

Optical Society

THE first issue of the bimonthly journal *Applied Optics*, a new publication of the Optical Society of America, appeared according to plan in January with a series of featured articles on optical pumping and masers, in addition to other papers, book reviews, and special columns devoted to a variety of applied aspects of optics. Each succeeding issue is also to feature a group of papers on a single area of applied optics. During 1962, the subjects to be covered will be space optics, foreign optics, optical engineering, infrared, and information theory; in 1963, the featured subjects will include astronomy, instrumentation, interferometry, spectroscopy, lens design, and computers.

Applied Optics is edited by John N. Howard, chief of the Thermal Radiation Laboratory, Geophysics Research Directorate, Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Bedford, Mass. Editorial offices are located at the Optical Society's headquarters at 1155 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C., where Patrica R. Wakeling of OSA's headquarters staff is serving as managing editor of the new journal. Subscription rates have been set at $6 per year for Optical Society members, $8 for members of other AIP societies, and $10 for nonmembers. Inquiries should be sent to the Washington office of the Optical Society.

Also in January, David L. MacAdam of the Eastman Kodak Company succeeded Wallace R. Brode as president of the Optical Society, and Stanley S. Ballard took office as president-elect. Prof. Ballard, who is chairman of the Department of Physics at the University of Florida, will become president of the Society in January 1963. Mary E. Warga and Archie I. Mahan continue as executive secretary and as treasurer, respectively. Other OSA officers include Dr. Brode, as past president; Dr. Howard, as editor of *Applied Optics;* and Deane B. Judd, as editor of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*.

History of Quantum Physics

IN June 1961 the American Physical Society and the American Philosophical Society applied through a joint committee to the US National Science Foundation for a three-year grant "to record interviews with men central in the 1913–1938 quantum revolution and to retrieve documentary material on quantum theory and related scientific developments, 1898–1938". The letter of application emphasized that, though quantum physics is the center of a revolution in scientific theory without parallel in modern times, the details of its development are largely unknown. Little of the battle of minds in the decisive period has been described, and even the records from which such a description might be drawn are fragmentary. Only those involved know who influenced whom and how and why in the formulation of quantum physics.

Records that can provide answers to questions like these are today recognized as vital for understanding what quantum physics has become, for analyzing the scientific method in action, and for providing the source materials essential to books on physics and its history. Recognizing the urgent need for such records, the National Science Foundation made—through the American Institute of Physics—a grant to support their collection. Intensive exploratory research has been in progress since July 1961 under the direction of Thomas S. Kuhn, who received his PhD in physics at Harvard in 1949 and is now professor of the history of science at the University of California at Berkeley. That work is being guided by the original sponsoring committee under the chairmanship of J. A. Wheeler of Princeton University. The other committee members are K. K. Darrow, G. Holton, F. Seitz, G. E. Uhlenbeck, and J. H. Van Vleck for the Physical Society; and H. A. Moe, G. W. Corner, and R. H. Shryock for the Philosophical Society. Professors Bohr, Born, Goudsmit, Rosenfeld, Segrè, and Wigner have already promised their active cooperation. This notice is to solicit assistance from a wider circle.

The project on sources for the history of quantum physics particularly desires information about:

1. letters bearing on the history of quantum physics
2. manuscript materials
3. records of meetings
4. photographs and films
5. recollections of seminars where critical steps were discussed; of moments at which an important concept emerged; and of occasions when the outlook of one investigator was dramatically changed by another.

Copies of such documents or accounts of such recollections will be gratefully received, but what is particularly requested at this time is *word of their existence and whereabouts*.

The project aims to insure the preservation of all such materials, the originals at suitable local archives and copies at a few major research centers. Even more urgently it intends to record recollections and commentary of the surviving participants in the development of quantum physics and of their close associates. As its final goal the project will publish a catalogue of the materials it has located or collected. The libraries of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia and of the University of California in Berkeley, have volunteered their excellent facilities for