

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 Patricia 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

the deposit and circulation to scholars of the project's tape, microfilms, and, where suitable, original manuscripts. Close liaison, including exchange of relevant materials, is being maintained with the American Institute of Physics' project on the history of recent physics in the United States, the organization and aims of which were described in the January 1962 issue of *Physics Today* (p. 44).

Since late last summer a close study of the existing published record—technical, biographical, and historical—has been in progress at Berkeley under the project on sources for the history of quantum physics. One aspect of the work has been the preparation of schematic biographies and bibliographies of more than one-hundred participants in the development of quantum physics. Taperecorded interviews with a few of those individuals will begin experimentally during the spring of 1962 and continue intensively during the summer. In September the project will move to headquarters in Copenhagen to facilitate work with European scientists.

It is already nearly too late to undertake a project with these aims. Its success will depend upon the active cooperation of the physics profession. Readers are therefore urged to respond and to bring this notice to the attention of others who may be helpful. Until September 1962 suggestions and information about source materials should be sent to Prof. Thomas S. Kuhn at 224 Stephens Memorial Hall, University of California, Berkeley 4, California. During the year following, the project's address will be: Universitets Institut for Teoretisk Fysik, Blegdamsvej 17, Copenhagen, Denmark.

History of Physics Library

MEMBERS of the physics community who may wish to do so are invited to contribute books documenting the development and growth of physics to be placed in the American Institute of Physics' Niels Bohr Library of the History of Physics. The library will contain some archive materials, such as original manuscripts and notebooks of prominent physicists, as well as a general collection of books concerning the history and philosophy of physics. The Institute will welcome the donation of any books which would be of interest to a historian of science or to a physicist and which would help create, enhance, and strengthen a collection intended to serve not only physicists but all concerned with the role of physics in society and in man's material and intellectual culture. Collected works and classics of physics, including those of the twentieth century, would be of particular interest.

The establishment of the library, which will be housed in the annex now under construction at AIP headquarters in New York, was made possible through a gift to the Institute by the late Dannie N. Heineman.*

* See page 84 of this issue.