

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

High-Polymer Physics Prize

Paul J. Flory, professor of physical chemistry at Stanford University, was awarded the first High-Polymer Physics Prize of the American Physical Society on March 27 during the Society's meeting in Baltimore. The \$1000 prize was established last November by action of the APS Council and is to be conferred annually "for outstanding accomplishment and excellence of contributions to research in high-polymer physics". It is sponsored by the Ford Motor Company.

Dr. Flory, who received his PhD from Ohio State University, has been engaged in research in the physics and physical chemistry of high polymers for more than twenty-five years. Early in his career, at the DuPont Experimental Station in Wilmington, Del., he worked with the research group which was responsible for much of the basic work in the development of synthetic polymers. He served as professor of chemistry at Cornell University from 1948 until 1956, when he was appointed executive director of research at the Mellon Institute. He left the latter post in 1960 to accept a professorship at Stanford.

On the occasion of the Physical Society award presentation, Dr. Flory was cited for having made extensive theoretical and experimental contributions in the field of high-polymer physics relating to the thermodynamics of polymer solutions, rubber-like elasticity, thermodynamics and kinetics of crystallization, and flow properties of polymeric materials, and for having originated many of the mathematical and statistical concepts now employed in polymer research. His recent

work has dealt with the resemblance between certain rubber-like polymers and the fibrous proteins of ligaments, blood vessels, and other biological tissue.

The APS prize was the second major honor accorded Dr. Flory in less than three weeks. On March 9 he received the William H. Nichols Medal, given by the New York Section of the American Chemical Society for work judged influential in stimulating original research.

The Mees Medal

In mid-March, during its spring meeting in Washington, D. C., the Optical Society of America announced the establishment of the C. E. K. Mees International Medal in memory of the late C. E. K. Mees, founder of the Eastman Kodak Company Research Laboratories. The silver medal, which bears the motto "Optics Transcends All Boundaries", was established with the help of a gift from Dr. Mees' family and will be awarded by the Optical Society as a means of recognizing "the extension of the frontiers of optics as Mees himself extended photography". A relief portrait of Dr. Mees appears on the medal's face; the reverse side bears a chart showing the history of the extension of the photographic spectrum.

The medal will be awarded for the first time at the Society's fall meeting in Rochester, N. Y., early in October. The recipient will be selected by a committee consisting of Erik Ingelstam of Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, David Z. Robinson of the staff of the science adviser to the President, Richard Tousey of the Naval Research Laboratory, W. Lewis Hyde of J. W. Fecker, Inc., in Pittsburgh, and former OSA president Wallace R. Brode of Washington, D. C.

Dr. Mees, who died two years ago, was a partner in the British photographic firm of Wratten and Wainwright during the early part of the century. He came to the United States in 1912 when George Eastman bought the company to obtain his services in organizing and directing a proposed research laboratory which was to be established at the Kodak Park Works in Rochester, N. Y. Dr. Mees was associated with Eastman Kodak for more than four decades and at the time of his retirement in 1955 was the firm's vice president in charge of research and development. For his contributions to the scientific knowledge of the photographic process he received many awards, including the Progress Medal of the British Royal Photographic Society, the John Scott Medal of the city of Philadelphia, the Henry Draper Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, the Rumford Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute.



Paul J. Flory (right), first winner of the High-Polymer Physics Prize, receives the new APS award from the Society's vice president, John H. Williams.