

MEETINGS

Women in Science

Sixty high-school science teachers, counselors, and school administrators met with a group of women scientists on March 31 in Washington, D. C., for the second annual conference on women in science. Held with the support of the National Science Foundation, the meeting dealt with the educational and career opportunities available to women in various scientific fields. It was organized by the Joint Board on Science Education for the Greater Washington Area, which is sponsored by the Washington Academy of Sciences and the District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies.

Crystallographer Elizabeth Wood of the Bell Telephone Laboratories presented a talk entitled "The Other Half of Our Scientific Manpower" in which she stressed the importance of the role played by teachers in shaping the attitudes of students toward science. Dr. Wood observed that in view of the growing acceptance of women as useful members of the scientific community the sincere encouragement of teachers should be offered to competent, enthusiastic girls who want to go into science.

Joan LaFrank, director of personnel for Melpar, Inc., discussed opportunities for women in research and development, emphasizing the ways in which the flexible employment policies of some companies make possible part-time employment for women who wish to combine a job with a family or with the further education which some find they want after having worked for a while.

In a different vein, Betty Lou Raskin of the Johns Hopkins Radiation Laboratory offered an example of the satisfactions to be derived from doing original research by describing her own work in developing opaque, low-density, foam-plastic smokes capable of being colored and of remaining suspended for long periods of time. With the help of lantern slides and a film, she discussed their potential usefulness for image projection in the sky, smoke screens, cloud nucleation, and various other possible applications.

After the luncheon provided by Immaculata Junior College, where the meeting was held, there was a panel discussion led by Katherine Way of the NAS-NRC Nuclear Data Project, who was responsible for the organization of the conference. The panelists spoke from personal experience of the kinds of problems and attitudes they encountered in their fields and described their professional preparation and the nature of their work. Those taking part were Mary Louise Robbins, a microbiologist from the George Washington University School of Medicine; Lois Platt, a cancer cytologist in the University's Cancer Clinic; Elizabeth Kahler, MD, a general practitioner; Katherine Stinson, an aeronautical engineer from the Federal Aviation Agency; Charlotte

Campbell, a medical mycologist from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; and Harriet Frush, a chemist, and Joan Rosenblatt, a mathematician, both of the National Bureau of Standards.

History of Science

The Tenth Annual Congress of the History of Science will convene during the week of August 26-31 at Cornell University and will hold its final sessions from August 31 to September 2 under the auspices of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. The Congress will be sponsored by the International Academy of the History of Sciences and by the Division of History of Science of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science. Henry Guerlac of Cornell, who is president of the Academy, will also serve as president of the Tenth Congress.

The program topics will include general problems in the history of science, the history of technology and applied science, science in antiquity, the science of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, mathematics and the exact sciences after 1600, biological and earth sciences after 1600, and the "sciences of man" (psychology, anthropology, sociology, and linguistics). The official languages of the Congress are English, French, German, and Russian.

According to advance estimates, the attendance is expected to approach 1000. The National Science Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies have made travel grants to the Congress to enable scholars from distant countries to attend.

Computing Machinery

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery, to be held September 4-7 in Syracuse, N. Y., will have its headquarters in the Syracuse Hotel, with sessions to be held there and in the War Memorial Auditorium. The program's thirty sessions will include papers dealing with information retrieval, artificial intelligence and self-organizing systems, education and training of programmers, numerical analysis, applications in the physical and engineering sciences, automatic programming and compilers, artificial languages, business data processing, real-time information processing, and computer design. The program will also include panel discussions on the use of algebraic language systems and on the social responsibilities of computer specialists. In addition, there will be an exhibit featuring displays by leading manufacturers of data-processing equipment and systems and by a number of computing centers.

Requests for additional information should be sent