

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Optical Society

On January 1, Stanley S. Ballard, chairman of the Department of Physics at the University of Florida, took office as president of the Optical Society of America for 1963. Dr. Ballard, who was the Society's president-elect during 1962 and who previously served for a number of years as vice president for meetings of the OSA, is a former president of the International Commission on Optics, secretary of the Physics Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and retiring president of the national physics honor society, Sigma Pi Sigma. Richard C. Lord, a member of the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and director of its Spectroscopy Laboratory, has been named president-elect of the Optical Society for the coming year. Dr. Lord, an authority on far infrared spectroscopy and president of the Commission on Molecular Spectroscopy of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, will assume the OSA presidency in January 1964.

The Society has also announced that John A. Sanderson, superintendent of the Optics Division of the US Naval Research Laboratory; W. Lewis Hyde, director of development of the J. W. Fecker Division of American Optical Company; and George Wald, professor of biology at Harvard University, will serve for the next three years as directors-at-large. They join Rudolf Kingslake of the Eastman Kodak Company, Earle K. Plyler of the National Bureau of Standards, and David Richardson of Bausch & Lomb, whose terms as directors-at-large will expire next December, and Georg H. Hass of the US Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories at Fort Belvoir, Va., R.

Clark Jones of the Polaroid Corporation, and E. D. McAlister of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, whose terms expire in December 1964.

Astronomical Society

The new president of the American Astronomical Society for the next two years, and the first Canadian astronomer to hold that office, is Carlyle S. Beals of the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa, who succeeded the previous president, Lyman Spitzer, Jr., of Princeton University, following the Society's annual meeting last year. He received his doctorate from the University of London in 1926, and became a member of the staff of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria in the following year. He remained at the Observatory until 1946, when he went to Ottawa, and in 1947 he was appointed to the post of Dominion Astronomer in charge of all federal astronomical and geophysical work in terrestrial magnetism, seismology, and gravity in Canada. He is known for his research in observational astrophysics, particularly in connection with studies of interstellar matter and the emission spectra of Wolf-Rayet and P Cygni stars, and he has also made contributions in the field of color temperatures and in photoelectric photometry. During the past ten years he has carried out studies having to do with the occurrence of ancient meteorite craters in Canada.

Ira S. Bowen, Director of the Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories, will serve as a vice president for the Society during 1962-64, joining Fred T. Haddock of the University of Michigan Observatory,



Stanley S. Ballard



Richard C. Lord



Carlyle S. Beals



Ira S. Bowen

NOW!

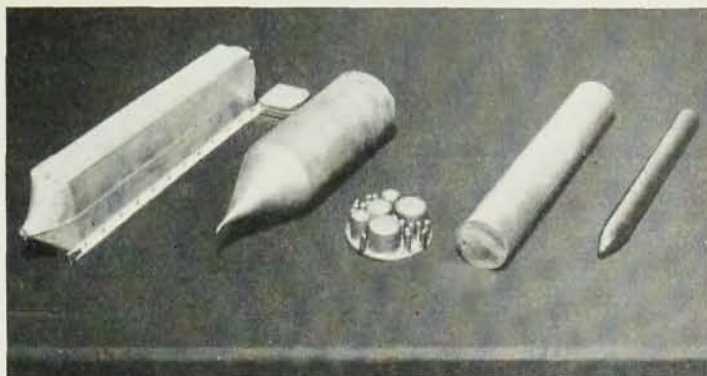
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who completes his term of office in 1963. Dr. Bowen, who received his doctorate in physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1926 and was a member of the physics faculty at Caltech for more than two decades, was named director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory in 1946. Since the spring of 1948, when Caltech and the Carnegie Institution of Washington entered into their cooperative arrangement, he has been director of the Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories. In research, Dr. Bowen is known primarily for his contributions in the fields of spectroscopy, cosmic-ray physics, and applied optics, and his honors have included awards of the Draper Medal, the Rumford Premium, the Ives Medal, and the Bruce Medal.

The Astronomical Society has also announced the election of three new councillors for 1962-65, W. A. Hiltner of the Yerkes Observatory, William Liller of the Harvard College Observatory, and Thornton Page of Wesleyan University. C. D. Shane of the Lick Observatory will serve for the next three years as a member of the U. S. National Committee of the International Astronomical Union.

Sigma Pi Sigma

The seventh national convention of Sigma Pi Sigma, national physics honor society, held October 21-24 at the University of Kansas, heard its outgoing president, Stanley S. Ballard, head of the Physics Department at the University of Florida, suggest that the size of the Society could be doubled during the next decade. Dr. Ballard expressed the belief that the growth in number of colleges that are now offering acceptable physics major curricula requires a planned program of expansion for Sigma Pi Sigma through the installation of additional chapters in outstanding physics departments where none now exist.

The report of the executive secretary, Marsh W. White, revealed substantial increases in the program of the Society in recent years. Since the last triennial convention, fourteen new chapters have been installed.

The Society now has 106 active chapters, with 2000 active members and 20 000 additional alumni members. Dr. White recommended the placing of the organization's headquarters office on a permanent basis, with a salaried secretariat, to permit expanding the services provided by the Society to its chapters and members.

Elected as the new national president was L. Worth Seagondollar, professor of physics at the University of Kansas. Dr. Seagondollar became a member of the Sigma Pi Sigma Executive Council in 1958 and was elected vice president in 1959. A member of the staff of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory during World War II, he received his doctorate in physics at the University of Wisconsin in 1948 and since then has continued his research activities in nuclear physics. Walter R. French, chairman of the science division at Nebraska Wesleyan University, was elected vice president of Sigma Pi Sigma, and Marsh W. White, professor emeritus of physics at the Pennsylvania State University, was re-elected executive secretary, a post he has held since 1928.

Among the actions taken by the convention was the adoption of a revised plan under which students may become affiliated with chapters as associates of the Society (a designation which replaces the former "chapter associates"), even though they are not yet eligible for election to regular chapter membership. Every effort is to be made by the chapters and the national organization to make the status of the associates a worthwhile one that will be prized by its recipients.

During the convention, Elmer Hutchisson, director of the American Institute of Physics, was named an honorary member of the Society. Dr. Hutchisson delivered one of the main convention addresses. Other speakers included Donald E. Cunningham of Adelphi College representing the AIP student sections, and Vincent E. Parker, deputy director of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Dr. Parker, who served as president of Sigma Pi Sigma from 1955 to 1959, was elected to the office of chancellor of the council



Seated at center in group photograph of officers of Sigma Pi Sigma is the recently elected president of the national physics honor society, L. Worth Seagondollar, who is shown with the new vice president, Walter R. French (at left), and Stanley S. Ballard, immediate past president of the organization (at right). Those standing are Vincent E. Parker, who has been elected to the honorary post of chancellor of Sigma Pi Sigma's Council, and Marsh W. White, who has been re-elected to another term as the society's executive secretary.