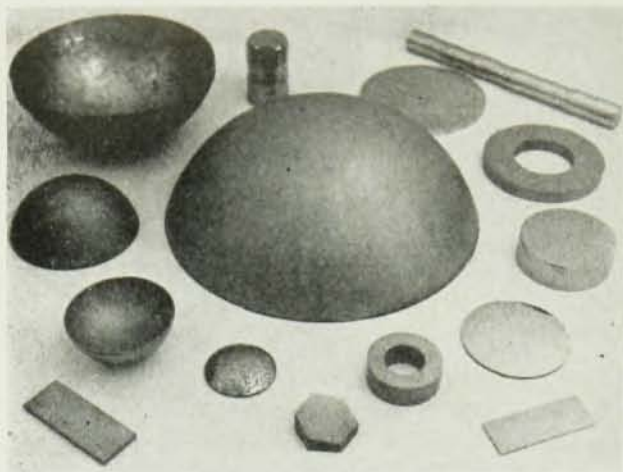


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MEETINGS

Planetary Sciences

A new Planetary Sciences Section of the American Geophysical Union has been established to coordinate activities within the Union related to space research. The section is sponsoring or cosponsoring 17 sessions of papers at the American Geophysical Union meeting in Washington, April 17-20. Details appear in the March issue of the *Transactions of the American Geophysical Union*. Further information can be obtained from the American Geophysical Union, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

Wiesner To Talk at FAS Meeting

The Federation of American Scientists has announced that Jerome B. Wiesner, director of the Office of Science and Technology, will address an open meeting of the FAS at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, in the Cotillion Room of the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington, D. C. The session will be held the evening before the opening of the Spring Meeting of the American Physical Society, and physicists who will be in Washington at that time are invited by the Federation to hear Dr. Wiesner's talk, which will be on a topic of current interest to scientists.

Space and Astronomy

The Adler Planetarium and Northwestern University are planning to join in sponsoring a one-day symposium on space astronomy during the third national conference on the peaceful uses of space, which meets May 1 through 9 at various scientific institutions in or near Chicago.

Entitled *Astronomy and the Peaceful Uses of Space—A Rendezvous of Technological Ideas*, the symposium will be held in Chicago on May 3, and will offer a program of papers concerning experiments which may be performed within the decade. The experiments proposed by the speakers will be discussed by a panel of astronomers, NASA representatives, and industrial research directors.

Further information can be obtained by writing to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Astronomy Department, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Radiation Damage

The general summer meeting of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (the merged IRE and AIEE), which meets June 16-21 in Toronto, will include a program devoted to the effects of nuclear radiation on electrical and electronic materials and equipment.

Sponsored by the Institute Committees on Nucleonics and on Electrical Insulation, the meeting's program will

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consist of eight sessions of contributed papers, one of invited papers, and a round-table discussion. Topics to be discussed include permanent and transient effects on circuits, semiconductors, and materials used in dielectrics, insulation, and engineering.

Those wishing to contribute to the program or participate in the meeting should contact R. M. Magee, Bendix Systems Division, Ann Arbor, Mich.

X-Ray and Electron Probes

During the annual meeting of the American Society for Testing and Materials, June 23-28, at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall in Atlantic City, the Society's Committees E-2 on Emission Spectroscopy and E-4 on Metallography will join in sponsoring a symposium on x-ray and electron-probe analysis. Tentative dates of the symposium are June 27 and 28. Requests for further information should be directed to the ASTM, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dielectrics

Westinghouse Research Laboratories in Pittsburgh is planning a symposium on the nature and solution of dielectric problems particularly associated with space flight and supersonic atmospheric flight. Scheduled to be held at the Laboratories on June 25 and 26, the symposium will cover microwave, cryogenic, and high-temperature properties of dielectrics, vacuum and radiation effects, thermal degradation, discharges, reliability, and components and devices.

Inquiries concerning the meeting should be sent to Drs. D. Berg or T. W. Dakin, Westinghouse Research Laboratories, Pittsburgh 35, Pa.

Effects of the Ionosphere

Ionospheric propagation of very-low-frequency electromagnetic waves will be the topic of a symposium to be held August 12-14 at the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards in Boulder, Colo.

The program will emphasize the effects of the ionosphere and will cover mode theory, theory of formation and physical characteristics of the lower ionosphere, and observations of vlf under normal and disturbed conditions. Most of the papers will be invited, but provision will be made for some short contributions.

Mrs. D. Belsher, Secretary, VLF Symposium, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colo., will supply additional information on request.

Rheology

The Fourth International Congress on Rheology, to be held August 26-30 at Brown University under the auspices of the International Committee on Rheology, with the Society of Rheology acting as the host organization, will offer a program of general lectures, invited