

SCIENCE EDUCATION

Relativity in College Physics

Although relativistic concepts are finding increasing application in several active areas of physical research, the subject of relativity is largely avoided in introductory courses in college physics. Concerned about this situation, the Commission on College Physics organized a small meeting at Cornell University in January 1961 to consider the problem. One result of that meeting was the decision to arrange for a larger and more extensive conference on the subject. Plans are now under way for the Cornell Conference on Relativity in College Physics, which is to be held August 5-23 under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation. L. G. Parratt, chairman of the Cornell Department of Physics, will serve as director of the conference. It will be attended by some seventy college physics teachers interested in considering ways in which the basic ideas and principles of special and general relativity can be incorporated into first- and second-year courses.

The main part of the program will consist of lectures, discussions, problems, and ("hopefully") some experimental work. Topics to be discussed will include Newtonian mechanics, Maxwell's electrodynamics and the velocity of light, the constancy of the velocity of light in all inertial frames, two approaches to relativistic mechanics, the explicit use of four-dimensional language, the physical content of general relativity, and cosmology and the origin of inertia. In addition to Professor Parratt, Cornell's Physics Department will be represented on the instructional staff for the conference by Philip Morrison, Donald F. Holcomb, and Thomas J. Peterson, Jr., as well as by Dennis Sciama of Cambridge University, who is currently at Cornell as a visiting professor. Starting July 29, a selected group of applicants will have the opportunity to attend an intensive preparatory course intended to enable them to act as discussion leaders at the conference.

Further information can be obtained by writing to Thomas J. Peterson, Jr., Department of Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Friedman Lectureship at MIT

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has received a grant of \$100,000 from the O-F Foundation of New York City to establish a lectureship in memory of the late Francis L. Friedman, professor of physics at MIT and chief scientist of the Physical Science Study Committee. Professor Friedman, who died on August 4, 1962, at the age of 43, also played a leading role in the establishment of MIT's Science Teaching Center and was its first director. Under the new Francis L. Friedman Lectureship in Physics, distinguished physicists from institutions elsewhere in the United States and abroad will be invited to offer lectures at MIT.

In announcing the grant, President J. A. Stratton of MIT said: "Professor Friedman made magnificent contributions not only to MIT and to the teaching of sciences in other universities, but also, through his work with the Physical Science Study Committee, helped to evolve an entirely new coherence in the teaching of high school physics. He was an innovator in physics research; he was also a most gifted innovator in education."

"Few educators have contributed more to the improvement of science teaching. Because of his insight into the fundamentals of many fields, the role Professor Friedman played will have a lasting influence on generations of students. That his contributions to education will be honored by this generous assistance from the O-F Foundation is a source of satisfaction both to his associates at the Institute and to teachers and students throughout the United States and in many foreign nations."

Summer Courses Abroad

The 1963 summer course of the Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation will deal with nuclear spectroscopy. Organized by the Dutch Physical Society and supported by a NATO grant, it will be held at Nijenrode Castle, Breukelen, from August 1 to 16.

Approximately 45 one-hour lectures will cover the following general topics: nuclear models; phenomenology; transition probabilities and selection rules for alpha, beta, and gamma transitions; nuclear moments; and reactions with a direct bearing on nuclear spectroscopy. According to a preliminary announcement, the lecturers will include R. J. Blin-Stoyle, C. J. Gallagher, I. Talmi, H. A. Weidenmüller, and possibly several others.

All lectures will be given in English. No tuition will be charged, but there will be a fee of 250 Dutch guilders (about \$70) for accommodations and incidentals. Applications should include the usual information (personal data, education, and present professional position) and should be supported by a note from a university professor of physics testifying to the applicant's interest and suitability. May 1 is the closing date for applications. They should be sent to the Registrar, Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation, 27 Molenstraat, The Hague, Netherlands.

An international summer school on solid-state physics will be held from August 12 to 31 at the Laboratories of the Centre d'Etude de l'Energie Nucléaire (CEN) at Mol-Donk, near Antwerp, Belgium. It will be spon-