NEWS OF AIP AND AWARDS

Max Planck Medal

On April 23, the 106th anniversary of the birth of Max Planck, the German Physical Society announced that its highest award, the Max Planck Medal, would be given to Samuel A. Goudsmit and George E. Uhlenbeck. The medal is given annually for distinguished work in theoretical physics. The Society has departed from previous custom in announcing the awards for 1964 and 1965 at the same time because of the collaboration of the two recipients in some of the work for which they were honored. Professor Uhlenbeck was scheduled to receive his medal on October 5 at the German Physical Society's meeting in Düsseldorf. Dr. Goudsmit's medal will be presented at a later meeting.

Dr. Uhlenbeck is a professor and member of the Rockefeller Institute, and Dr. Goudsmit is deputy chairman of the Physics Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Both were born in Dutch territory. Working together at the University of Leiden in 1925, they introduced the concept of the spin of the electron to explain certain features of the fine structure of spectral lines. This concept, which plays a significant role in the understanding of atomic structure, was later shown by Dirac to follow from his relativistic generalization of the Schrödinger equation. Both men came to the University of Michigan in 1927 and remained on the staff there for many years. The award honors not only their early collaboration but also the significant contributions each has continued to make in theoretical physics.

Student Section awards

For the third successive year, the Bendix Corporation will sponsor an awards program for the Student Sections of the American Institute of Physics. The program provides grants, awarded on the basis of an annual competition, to support local Section activities. As in the past, proposals for projects submitted by the Sections will be reviewed by a panel of judges, who will select those considered as the most likely to strengthen the AIP Student Sections program.

This year, the total funds available for all awards have been increased to $2000; the upper limit of $500 for any individual project remains unchanged. Although each proposal will be required to have the endorsement of the Section's faculty advisor, its planning and writing will be the responsibility of the student members.

Judges taking part in the competition this year will include David F. Griffing of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, William W. Havens of Columbia University, and Myron A. Jeppesen of Bowdoin College.

Proposals for 1965 must be submitted by November 15, 1964, to Mrs. Ethel E. Snider, National Secretary, Student Sections, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45 Street, New York, N.Y. The awards will be announced shortly after January 1, 1965.

Physics history project

Charles Weiner, a historian of science and technology, who was formerly at the Case Institute of Technology, has assumed the post of director of the American Institute of Physics Project on the History of Recent Physics in the United States. He succeeds W. James King, who has accepted an appointment as lecturer at the University of California in Berkeley. Dr. King, who was formerly a curator at the Museum of Science and Technology of the Smithsonian Institution, headed the Project during the first three years of its existence.

Mr. Weiner has been associated with the Archive of Contemporary Science and Technology at the Case Institute. He was formerly editor of the journal of the Cleveland Natural Science Museum. He holds a BS in metallurgical engineering, an MA in the history of science and technology and has recently completed his doctoral work in that field at Case. His professional papers have dealt with early thermodynamics, the popularization of science in the United States, and the teaching and research career of Joseph Henry. He is now completing an edition of Henry's unpublished course of lectures on physics.

Gerald Holton of the Physics Department at Harvard is chairman of the history project's advisory committee of distinguished physicists and historians of science.

Aided by thousands of physicists and their institutions, the project has already located, catalogued, and gathered a large collection of historical source materials that document the development of physics and the physics community in the United States since the 1890's. These materials include the manuscripts, notebooks, diaries, correspondence, and apparatus of individual physicists who made significant contributions to the sciences. Fifteen hundred individuals and/or their families and institutions have already been contacted, and others will be asked in the near future. They are being asked to supply biographical and bibliographical data as well as information on the present location of and plans for preserving relevant historical materials.

The response helped to produce a National Catalog of Sources for the History of Physics and the History of Physics Archives, both of them established and maintained at the AIP by the history project staff. In addition to the bio-bibliographical data, the Archives now contain autobiographies specially prepared for the project by 150 distinguished living physicists; taped interviews conducted by the project; more than 2000 photographs of apparatus, laboratories, individual physicists and groups; taped lectures, seminars and conferences involving Niels Bohr, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Leo Szilard, Enrico Fermi, and many others; and large collections of original documents of such men as Richard von Mises, Alfred Landé, G. W. Pierce, and D. L. Webster. These ma-