

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

A New Society

A Society for Natural Philosophy was founded during 1963 "to promote communication across professional lines, to neutralize blind specialization, and to recognize and foster quality in scientific research". Its method of operation is to organize meetings on specific topics of interest to mathematicians, physicists, chemists, and engineers.

Thus far, the Society has held two meetings, the first at Johns Hopkins in March on statistical and continuum theories of materials, and the second on fluid dynamics at the Mellon Institute in November. The organization's chairman is R. S. Rivlin of Brown University, its secretary, C. Truesdell of Johns Hopkins University, and its treasurer, J. L. Ericksen, also of Johns Hopkins.

Membership in the Society is open to anyone, with dues set at \$3 per year, and a registration fee, usually \$15, charged at meetings. Additional information can be obtained from Dr. Truesdell at Johns Hopkins.

Fritz London Award

The ninth International Conference on Low Temperature Physics, held under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, will take place at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, from August 31 to September 4, 1964. A feature of the meeting will be the presentation of the fourth Fritz London Award for distinguished research in low-temperature physics. The award is presented as a memorial to the late Fritz London, who died in 1954 while professor of physics at Duke University. It consists of an honorarium of \$1000, a certificate of commendation, and a contribution toward the traveling expenses to the Conference of the recipient. Previous award winners have been Nicholas Kurti of the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford University, England, Lev Davidovitch Landau of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and John

Bardeen of the University of Illinois.

The award committee has indicated that it will be happy to receive suggestions as to the recipient of the award, preferably from individuals rather than groups. Such suggestions should be accompanied by supporting statements and should be forwarded prior to April 15, 1964, to the chairman, Dr. Louis D. Roberts, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn., or to any of the following who are members of the committee: Dr. Henry A. Boorse, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.; Dr. James Nicol, Cryonetics Corporation, Northwest Industrial Park, Burlington, Mass.; Dr. Paul Marcus, International Business Machines Research Center, Yorktown Heights, N. Y.; Dr. Darrell Osborne, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, Ill.

The forthcoming award, as well as those previously made, has been donated by Arthur D. Little Inc. of Cambridge, Mass.



Richard Tousey

Navy Award

For his early work in rocket astronomy and his accomplishments in physical and physiological optics, Richard Tousey has received the Navy Award for Distinguished Achievement in Science.

Dr. Tousey, who has been associated with the Naval Research Laboratory

for over twenty years, has served as head of its Rocket Spectroscopy Branch since 1958 and also guides NRL's program of research on the visibility of earth satellites. Beginning in 1946, he directed a series of high-altitude probes, with captured German V-2 rockets, which secured the first detailed record of the sun's radiations in the far-ultraviolet region of the spectrum. In the fields of vision and atmospheric optics, he has contributed, through his work during World War II, on visual acuity, dark adaptation, vision through telescopes, night myopia, spherical aberration of the eye, and on the atmospheric attenuation of light and the brightness of the sky.

A fellow of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America, he was honored by the OSA in 1960 with its Ives Medal and last year received the Draper Medal of the National Academy of Sciences. He is also a member of the American Astronomical Society.

Gravity Awards

Now in its fifteenth year, the Gravity Research Foundation is again offering five awards, ranging in amount from \$1000 to \$100, for the best 1500-word essays on gravity. Manuscripts must be received prior to April 15; awards will be announced June 1.

Further information can be obtained from George M. Rideout, President, Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N. H.

Radiology Medal

Harold O. Wyckoff of the National Bureau of Standards has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Radiological Society of North America. An NBS staff member for 23 years, Dr. Wyckoff is currently chief of both the newly created Radiological Physics Branch and the X-Ray Physics Section in the Radiation Physics Division. He

has served as chairman of the Physics Committee in the RSNA, vice chairman of the College Commission on Radiologic Units, Standards and Protection, and as a member of the National Committee on Radiation Protection and Measurements. The author of many important papers on radiation protection, measurements, and radiation dosimetry, he is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American College of Radiology.



Luis W. Alvarez



Vannevar Bush

Medal of Freedom

Alan T. Waterman was among 33 persons honored by President Johnson on December 6 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. His citation paid tribute to his far-sighted advocacy of federal support for the sciences, and of using government resources to improve the quality and increase the thrust of basic research.

Dr. Waterman retired last July as director of the National Science Foundation, after having headed the Foundation during the entire twelve years of its existence.

Max Planck Medal

The Max Planck Medal, awarded every year by the German Physical Society to a theoretical physicist, was recently presented to Rudolf E. Peierls of Oxford University. Dr. Peierls was born and educated in Germany and studied under Sommerfeld, Heisenberg, and Pauli. He went to England in 1933 and became professor of mathematical physics at the University of Birmingham in 1937. During World War II he served as a member of the British mission to the US atomic energy project at Los Alamos. He was recently appointed Wykeham Professor of Theoretical Physics at Oxford. Dr. Peierls' main work has been in quantum theory, including solid-state physics, nuclei, and field theory.

National Medal of Science

Three American Physical Society fellows were among the five individuals who have been awarded the 1963 National Medal of Science. The awards, presented by President Johnson last month, were made on the basis of recommendations received from the thirteen-member President's Committee on the National Medal of Science.

Luis W. Alvarez was cited "for inspiring leadership in experimental high-energy physics, continuing development of the bubble chamber, discovery of many states of elementary particles, and contributions to the national defense". Dr. Alvarez is professor of physics and associate director of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California.

Vannevar Bush was honored "for distinguished achievements in electrical engineering in the technology of computing machines, in the effective coupling of the physical and life sciences; and in mobilizing science, engineering, and education in enduring ways in the service of the nation". Dr. Bush was director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development during the Second World War; he has also served as vice president and dean of engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and as head of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

John R. Pierce was cited "for outstanding contributions to communications theory, electron optics, and traveling wave tubes, and for analysis leading to world-wide radio communi-



John R. Pierce

cations using artificial earth satellites". Dr. Pierce is executive director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories research-communications principles and communications systems divisions.

The two other scientists who were given the National Medal are Cornelius B. van Niel, professor emeritus, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University; and Norbert Wiener, professor emeritus of mathematics at MIT.

The National Medal of Science was established by the 86th Congress to be awarded by the President to individuals "who in his judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical or engineering sciences". The first presentation of the award was made last February to the late Theodore von Kármán.