SCIENCE EDUCATION

Student advisor guide

The Education Department of the American Institute of Physics is currently gathering data on the doctoral physics programs at some 135 institutions in order to compile a handbook for advisors of graduate students. The final report, which is expected to be issued in the fall of 1965, will be distributed without charge to all colleges and universities offering a physics program.

Among the kinds of information to be included are the names and ranks of the graduate physics faculty, the research specialties, staff, and related facilities, the necessary undergraduate preparation, PhD requirements, examinations and dissertations, assistantships and fellowships, graduate student statistics, and the general academic environment. It is hoped that the provision of accurate information on what each department expects of and offers to its students will help reduce the number who drop out of graduate studies because of the mismatching of student and school. The handbook project is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Science TV

During the early part of this year, the American Institute of Physics and nineteen other scientific organizations are cooperating in the production of twenty half-hour telecasts "designed to keep the layman, as well as scientists and engineers, up to date on developments in the scientific and engineering fields". The project, called "Science and Engineering Television Journal," is being underwritten by the National Science Foundation and the Timken Roller Bearing Company, and coordinated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Distribution of the telecasts will be handled by the National Educational Television Network, which will carry the series to more than 75 stations in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

The American Institute of Physics will produce a program on high-energy physics, entitled "The Atomic Jungle". A panel consisting of Morris H. Shamos of New York University, Maurice Goldhaber of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Leon M. Lederman of Columbia University, and Abraham Pais of the Rockefeller Institute will discuss the historical and experimental aspects of particle physics, as well as the theoretical interpretation of experimental data.

Other program topics in the series will include observatories in space by the American Astronomical Society, fiber optics by the Optical Society of America, lunar surface controversy by the New York Academy of Sciences, and topology by the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences.

Optics equipment grants

The Advanced Research Projects Agency has established a program of one-time equipment grants for institutions engaged in optical research of interest to the Department of Defense. Such grants are intended to strengthen the optics programs at these schools by providing funds for updating research equipment used for Defense Department programs and also by providing modern equipment for graduate-level research. Areas of significant importance to the Defense Department include geometrical and physical optics, electromagnetic waves, coherence phenomena, statistical optics, and quantum optics. Institutions which are selected for these grants should receive their equipment funds during 1965.

Departmental programs

Beginning in September 1965, the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., will introduce a new physics undergraduate program designed to prepare students of outstanding promise for productive graduate careers in physics. In the first two years students will be expected to attain the level of a BS degree in the