

maintained with NPL throughout his scientific career, retiring from active government service in 1961 with the rank of deputy chief scientist officer. A fellow of the Optical Society of America and of the Royal Society, he has served as head of the British Colour Group and the British Illuminating Engineering Society, and as vice president of the British Physical Society.

APS High-Polymer award

For his contributions to the study of polymer structure, particularly the use of light-scattering to examine polymer solutions, Peter J. W. Debye has received the American Physical Society's High-Polymer Physics Prize, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company. The



Peter J. W. Debye

\$1000 award was presented to Dr. Debye by APS President Felix Bloch, during the banquet of the Society's March meeting in Kansas City.

Born in Maastricht in the Netherlands, in 1884, Dr. Debye studied electrical engineering at the Technische Hochschule in Aachen and went on to receive his doctorate from the University of Munich in 1908, under Arnold Sommerfeld. In 1911, he succeeded Einstein as professor of theoretical physics at the University of Zurich and later assumed similar positions at the Universities of Utrecht and Göttingen, and at Zurich's Federal Polytechnic School. In 1927, Dr. Debye

became director of the physical institute at Leipzig University and in the fall of 1935 accepted the directorship of the Max Planck Institute of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft in Berlin. Invited to give the Baker Lectures at Cornell University in 1940, he remained to become professor of chemistry at Cornell and head of the Department from 1940 to 1952. Since June of 1952, he has held the rank of professor emeritus.

Notable among his many achievements in fundamental chemistry are the Debye theory of specific heat of solids, the Debye-Hückel theory of the distribution of ions in chemical materials, and his work on molecular dipole moments and diffraction of x-rays and electrons in gases, which won him the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1936. Since his retirement, Dr. Debye has worked in the field of high polymers, developing a method for measuring polymer size by means of a light-scattering technique. Currently, he is studying the critical phenomena of liquid mixtures and polymer solutions, as well as the range of molecular forces. Besides the Nobel Prize, the many honors accorded to him include the Lorentz Medal of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and the Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute.

Spectroscopy honor

For his work in x-ray and electron-probe spectroscopy, L. S. Birks of the Naval Research Laboratory has won the 1965 award of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh. The award, consisting of a scroll and a \$300 honorarium, was presented to Mr. Birks on March 2, during the Sixteenth Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy.

Mr. Birks has been a pioneer in the study of the electron-probe microanalyzer and has authored or co-authored some seven papers on x-ray fluorescence, electron probe analysis, x-ray diffraction, and electron microscopy. Educated at the Universities of Illinois and Maryland, he has been affiliated with the NRL since 1942 and is currently head of the Laboratory's X-Ray Optics Branch. A fellow

of the Washington Academy of Sciences, he is also a member of the American Physical Society and the Electron Microscopy Society of America.

Dickinson's Priestley Award

Dickinson College has presented its fourteenth Joseph Priestley Memorial Award to Joel H. Hildebrand of the University of California. The award, consisting of a medal and a \$1000 honorarium, was given to Dr. Hildebrand for his work in solubility and the structure of liquids.

Dr. Hildebrand has been associated with the University of California for over fifty years as professor of chemistry, chairman of the Department, and dean of the College of Chemistry. Since 1952 he has been professor emeritus. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and a former president of the American Chemical Society.

Plastics award

The Society of Plastic Engineers has honored Turner Alfrey, Jr., with its 1965 International Award in Plastics Science and Engineering. The award, consisting of a gold medal and a \$1000 honorarium, is in recognition of Dr. Alfrey's work in three major areas of plastics, the mechanical and physical behavior of polymers, the development of copolymers, and the study of problems in rheology.

Employed by the Dow Chemical Company since 1950, Dr. Alfrey is currently a research scientist at Dow's Plastics Research Laboratory in Midland, Mich. He is a member of the American Physical Society and the Society of Rheology, and received the Society of Rheology's Bingham Medal in 1955.

Officers

Elected officers of the American Physical Society's Division of High-Polymer Physics for the 1965-66 term include H. D. Keith, *chairman*; Elio Passaglia, *vice chairman*; and W. James Lyons, *secretary treasurer*. John D. Hoffman and Fraser P. Price were named to three-year terms on the Executive Committee of the Division.