

PEOPLE AND PAPERS— THE JANUARY MEETING

The New York meeting between semesters: a place to hear papers (900 of them are scheduled), to talk physics, find a job, see the latest books and equipment.

Later this month the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society will hold their joint annual meeting at the New York Hilton. AAPT has scheduled 90 papers covering subjects from A to V: from "Advent of quantum theory" to "Visual aids." APS will have over 800 invited and contributed papers ranging from the primordial fireball to meson factories. Putting the right paper in the right place is a problem, according to Karl K. Darrow and William W. Havens, Jr., whom we interviewed recently. Both APS and AAPT will install officers and award prizes. The societies will hold a ceremonial session, and the American Institute of Physics will sponsor the 14th annual physics show.

The big move

The annual gathering of physicists and physics teachers will be in a new setting this year—the luxurious New York Hilton. Some 6500 people are expected to register for the joint annual meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers to be held Jan. 26 to 29.

To younger physicists, it seems as if there has always been a big New York meeting between semesters—a place to hear papers, to talk physics, find a job, see the latest books and equipment. But now

change is in the wind. The meeting, which left Columbia University in 1955, now leaves the crowded garment district hotels (Statler Hilton and New Yorker) and goes to a posh new hotel, especially designed for conventions. And two years hence the big meeting will move west to Chicago, for the first time in the memories of most physicists.

The decision to "go west, young physicist" was made after strong pressure from Middle Westerners. According to William Havens, deputy secretary of APS, some mid-western physicists were not satisfied with "off-season" meetings. They wanted the prestige of the annual meeting. On the other hand, there has been no such pressure from the West Coast, where physicists seem happy not to have the added work of running the big meeting of the year. The first Chicago meeting will be in 1968; another is scheduled for 1970, provided that the meeting in 1968 is a success.

The New York Hilton was built especially to handle large conventions. There will be no elevator bottlenecks to cause late arrivals at sessions. At the new hotel all meetings will be on adjacent floors with escalators between.

Meeting highlights

On the four meeting days, an APS member can choose among 752 con-



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INVITED PAPERS

- Wed AM APS **Astrophysics:** A. G. W. Cameron
Nuclear physics: C. S. Wu, V. E. Krohn, H. E. Conzett, H. T. Motz, A. E. S. Green
Electron Physics Div: Two-photon processes: J. J. Hopfield, R. Novick, J. L. Hall, T. D. Abella
 AAPT **College curriculum development:** Kittel
- PM APS **Polarization phenomena for nuclear physics:** W. R. Gibbs, W. Haeblerli, R. O. Lane, G. W. Greenlees
Theoretical: M. Gell-Mann, F. Gursey, R. G. Sachs, S. Fubini
 AAPT **Visual aids:** C. Francis, W. Huggins, J. Bregman, W. Eppenstein, A. Leitner
Advent of quantum theory: H. Kallman
- Thu AM APS **General interest:** J. R. Oppenheimer, R. B. Leighton, H. Hoerlin
Solid-State Div: Low-temperatures: B. J. Josephson, D. N. Langenberg, P. W. Anderson, P. Richards
 AAPT **Report, Commission on College Physics**
- PM APS **Solid-state and cryophysics:** C. G. Shull, H. Ehrenreich, P. E. Tenenwald, I. Giaever
Quantum electronics: R. C. Miller, B. P. Stoicheff, S. Porto, A. Javan, M. Lax
 APS **Concept of time:** H. Putnam, R. K. Sachs, S. Weinberg
- Thu Eve APS **Banquet:** "Manned extraterrestrial exploration," C. H. Townes
- Fri AM APS **Meson factories:** R. S. Livingston, A. Zucker, J. A. Martin, L. Rosen, E. Knapp
Primordial fireball, astrophysics: J. A. Wheeler, R. W. Wilson, J. Peebles, D. Wilkinson
- PM APS **Ceremonial:** F. Bloch, AAPT L. I. Schiff, M. Gell-Mann
- Sat AM APS **Information storage and retrieval I:** A. M. Weinberg, W. Knox, C. F. J. Overhage, N. H. Cottrell, S. Pasternack
High-energy physics: R. W. Birge, A. V. Tollestrup, L. E. Holloway, F. Turkot
- AAPT **Latin-Amer. physics:** M. Alonso, H. G. Souza; **Fluid dynamics teaching:** R. J. Emrich, H. A. Snyder; **Physical science for nonscience majors:** E. A. Wood
- PM APS **Mirrors:** R. W. Thompson
Information storage and retrieval II: H. C. Wolfe, A. Herschman, J. H. Crawford, K. Way, M. D. Goldberg, M. H. Kalos, M. J. Moravczik
High-energy physics: J. Badier, G. R. Lynch, M. Derrick, J. Steinberger

tributed papers and 66 invited ones. He must choose carefully because most of the time ten sessions will be meeting simultaneously. The ten-minute papers are distributed into 54 sessions, and two more sessions are planned for the post-deadline papers. There is even a session for black-out victims—abstracts that arrived late because of the Great Eastern Power Fizzle. (Abstracts delayed less than five days were inserted into appropriate sessions.)

The most popular subject is solid-state physics; it accounts for one-third of the papers (if one includes cryophysics and liquid state). Nuclear physics is also prominent with more than one-fifth of the papers; theoretical physics ranks third with somewhat less than one-fifth of the abstracts.

Four mornings and three afternoons one can go to the East Ballroom or the West Ballroom and find a session of invited papers. "Evidence for a primordial fireball" is the provocative title of one session; an added attraction at the session will be a paper by John Wheeler called "Gravitational collapse—to what?" A general interest session on Thursday morning features "Thirty years of mesons" by J. Robert Oppenheimer. Saturday will have an all-day symposium on "Storage and retrieval of information." The divisions of electron physics and solid-state physics will each hold an invited session; the first will be on two-photon processes and the second on low temperatures. There will also be two sessions on nuclear physics, two on high-energy physics, one on meson

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factories, and one on quantum electronics.

In addition to the usual joint APS-AAPT banquet and ceremonial session there will be a symposium on the philosophy of physics.

The banquet will be moved from its customary place on the schedule—from Friday night to Thursday night. Optimists hope that this will improve the attendance (usually about ten percent of those registered) since it will leave the last night of the meeting free for those interested in typical New York night life.

Theodore H. Maiman will receive the Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize at the banquet. The after-dinner speech, called "Manned extraterrestrial exploration—why, how and when?" will be given by Charles H. Townes.

The joint ceremonial session will be held in the Grand Ballroom, which is really the East and West Ballrooms united by dropping their partitions. Felix Bloch, who will retire as APS president, will deliver "Some remarks on the theory of superconductivity." The Oersted medal of the AAPT will be presented to Leonard Schiff. Then Murray Gell-Mann will give the Richtmyer lecture on "The spectrum of baryon and meson states."

"The concept of time" will be the topic of the special APS-AAPT symposium on the philosophy of physics, with papers given by Hilary Putnam, Rainer K. Sachs, and Steven Weinberg.

AAPT itself will hold ten sessions of invited and contributed papers. On Thursday the Commission on College Physics will give its biennial report.

At a special session on Wednesday the teachers will discuss visual aids in physics, including overhead projectors, computer-generated films, and animated films. If time allows, some new movies will be shown there as well. The AAPT Visual Aids Committee will also show physics films during each day of the meeting.

Other meeting features

Here is a list of some other activities at the meeting:

Registration. This will be supervised by AIP, but most of the girls staffing the desks will be from a convention bureau.

Press room. It will be manned by the AIP public-relations staff. There will be several press conferences with physicists who are giving talks at the meeting. At previous meetings not only newspaper reporters showed up;

there were also people from wire services, magazines, the Voice of America, even an occasional bewildered physicist. The press room also distributes popular versions prepared by some of the physicists giving papers. The day before the meeting, the AIP public-relations division will run an all-day seminar (see page 9) for science writers. Englebert L. Schücking will head a panel of physicists discussing cosmology.

Placement service.

Message center and duplicating service.

Business meetings. The following groups will hold theirs: AAPT Council, AAPT (annual business meeting), APS Council, APS (annual business meeting), Electron Physics Division, Fluid Dynamics Division.

Student lectures. Three lectures will be given especially for students on subjects of current research.

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