

SOCIETIES AND AWARDS

AIP honors Thompson

For distinguished service to physics, H.W. Thompson will receive the John Torrence Tate gold medal and \$1000. The award is made by the American Institute of Physics primarily to foreign nationals for their efforts in advancing physics on an international level. Thompson is the foreign secretary of the Royal Society of London.



THOMPSON

The medal, a certificate and the check will be presented to Thompson at the 2 December meeting of the Spectroscopy Group of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society in England.

APS Bonner prize

Robert J. Van de Graaff received the Tom W. Bonner prize at the American Physical Society's summer meeting in Mexico City. The APS is honoring Van de Graaff "for his contribution to and continued development of the electrostatic accelerator, a device that has immeasurably advanced nuclear physics." He is director and chief scientist of High Voltage Engineering Corporation.

Vetlesen prize

The Dutch astronomer Jan Hendrik Oort is the winner of the 1966 Vetlesen prize. The award, established by the Vetlesen Foundation, is presented every two years at Columbia University to honor "outstanding

achievement in the sciences resulting in a clearer understanding of the earth, its history or its relations to the universe."



OORT

Oort, a professor at the University of Leiden, was awarded a gold medal and \$25 000. As director of the Leiden Observatory, he has achieved recognition for his studies of the rotation of our galaxy and for his work in radio astronomy. Born in Franeker, the Netherlands, he is now 66.

AEC's Fermi award

The Enrico Fermi award for 1966 was presented by the Atomic Energy Commission to Lise Meitner, Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann. They were cited for "their combined and individual efforts in discovering nuclear fission, and for extensive experimental studies that led to this vital discovery."



MEITNER

The scientists, the first foreign winners, received gold medals and citations and will share \$50 000.

Miss Meitner, the first woman winner, is 87 and now lives in England. With O.R. Frisch, in 1939, she explained the fission process and correctly predicted the accompanying energy release.



HAHN

Hahn, also 87, discovered fission while studying the chemical properties of neutron-irradiated uranium salts. He was awarded the Nobel prize in chemistry in 1944 for the discovery of fission. He resides in Göttingen, West Germany.

Strassmann, 64, is director of the Institute for Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry at Mainz University in West Germany. He collaborated with Hahn in identifying the uranium fission products.

Franklin Institute

At its annual Medal Day, the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia awarded the Cresson medal to Everitt P. Blizard, late director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory's neutron-physics division, for his work in radiation shielding. Cowinner of the medal is Herman F. Mark, dean emeritus of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, for polymer research. The Institute's Franklin medal has been won by Britton Chance, chairman of the biophysics and physical biochemistry department at the University of Pennsylvania school of medicine, and director of the Johnson Research Foundation. The award is for work in biochemistry and biophysics. □