SOCIETIES AND AWARDS

National Medal of Science

John Bardeen, Peter J. W. Debye, the late Hugh L. Dryden, and Leon M. Lederman were among 11 scientists recently honored by President Johnson with the National Medal of Science. The medal was established in 1959 by the 86th Congress to be awarded by the President for outstanding contributions to science.

In paying tribute to Dryden, the President said his recent death "ended nearly 50 years of single-minded devotion and effort by one of the most distinguished civil servants this country has ever known. Beloved by all his associates and respected throughout the world, Dr. Dryden more than any other man led us into the age of jet aircraft and space exploration."

Bardeen was honored for his work in geophysics, nuclear physics, thermal diffusion in gases, and, particularly, for his contributions to the theory of electrical conductivity in solids. In collaboration with L. N. Cooper and J. R. Schrieffer, he devised a theory of superconductivity that is now universally recognized as providing a correct account of this phenomenon. Bardeen is currently professor of physics and electrical engineering at the University of Illinois.

Debye, who is now professor emeritus at Cornell University, was recognized for his many achievements in broad areas of physics and chemistry, including his work on molecular dipole moments and the diffraction of x rays and electrons in gases and his method for measuring polymer size by a light-scattering technique. In recent years he has studied critical phenomena of liquid mixtures and polymer solutions as well as the range of molecular forces.

The National Medal was awarded to Leon M. Lederman, professor of physics at Columbia University, for his experimental work in meson interactions. Especially significant has been Lederman's participation in two classic experiments, the first of which demonstrated that parity does not hold in weak interactions, and the second, that there are two kinds of neutrinos—one associated with electrons and the other with muons.

APS may modify divisions

The council of the American Physical Society is now in the process of considering steps to strengthen its existing divisions and possibly add new divisions of nuclear physics and high-energy physics. Many APS members think that at present divisions do not take a large enough role in APS meetings or in discussions of publication policy. Last fall the Physical Society council met in Chicago and discussed these and other division problems. Participating in the gathering were various division representatives, as well as chairmen of an ad hoc committee on nuclear physics and of an ad hoc committee on the proper relation between high-energy physics and the APS. Out of the meeting came three proposals that the council recommended to the Physical Society's committee on revision of the constitution. "(1) Each clearly recognized field of physics should be represented by a division. (2) Each division should be represented on the council. (3) Each division should be responsible for organizing or advising on the presentations for society meetings and topical conferences."

The entire problem will be studied by division officers and committees appointed by the council. Concurrently, APS members are invited to send their views on division structure to APS secretary Karl K. Darrow, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027.

IPPS forms new group

The British Institute of Physics and Physical Society has created a carbon and graphite group. Headed by Professor A. R. Ubbelohde with Dr. G. S. Parry as honorary secretary, the group will hold meetings and collaborate with similar sections in other societies. Gatherings are expected to interest theoretical physicists as well as those working with materials in industry, academic institutions and government laboratories. Details regarding membership in the new group can be obtained from the Registrar, IPPS, 47 Belgrave Square, London, SW 1.

London prize nominees

The committee for the fifth Fritz London Award is inviting suggestions for nominees. Recognizing distinguished research in low-temperature physics, the award was established as a memorial to Fritz London, professor of physics at Duke University, who died in 1954. It consists of a $1000 honorarium, a certificate of commendation, and a contribution to the recipient's travel expenses. This year the prize will be presented during the 10th International Conference on Low Temperature Physics (Moscow, 29 Aug.-6 Sept.) and will be sponsored by the Union Carbide Corporation. Individuals can send names of nominees, accompanied by supporting statements, before 1 April to Professor Henry A. Boorse, Department of Physics, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027.

Nininger prize

To generate interest in meteorites among science majors, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Nininger have established a $1000 award, administered by Arizona State University, for the best paper on meteorite science. Contestants should be registered undergraduates or graduates at an American university or college and should send their articles (under 10 000 words) before 1 Sept. 1966 to Dr. George A. Boyd, Center for Meteorite Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. 85281.