

SOCIETIES AND AWARDS

Duntley OSA president

Seibert Q. Duntley has been elected president by the board of directors of the Optical Society of America, to fill the unexpired 1966 term of the late Van Zandt Williams who was also director of the American Institute of Physics.

Duntley had been at MIT until 1952 where he received the doctor of



DUNTLEY

science degree in 1939. He then joined the staff of Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California (San Diego). He now serves as director of the visibility laboratory there, where his major interests are human visual capability and environmental optics.

President of the society in 1965, Duntley was awarded the Frederic E. Ives medal in 1961 for distinguished work in optics. He will be succeeded as president by John A. Sanderson, now president-elect, on 1 Jan.

European physical society?

Creation of a European physical society "the sooner the better" has almost unanimous support of a group of 100 physicists who met to consider the matter last April and is under study by a steering committee. The committee of 12 distinguished physicists will meet in October to assess reactions to the proposal and determine future action. Meanwhile a letter from Gilberto Bernardini, president of the Italian Physical Society, reports the "Meeting on Eu-

ropean Collaboration in Physics" to presidents of national societies and solicits their responses.

The meeting, held in Pisa at the Scuola Normale Superiore, was attended by physicists from all over Europe and included representatives from Poland, Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom. Israel and the United States were also represented.

The proposed international society "would contribute toward strengthening the links existing among us, in a constructive and positive manner," says Bernardini. Its function would be to provide a forum for the discussion of subjects of common interest to all European physicists, and to provide means whereby action can be taken on those matters that cannot conveniently be handled by national bodies.

Two approaches to the institution of such a society are being considered. One is to form the society as an association of individual physicists, the other as a federation of already existing physical societies. In either case the society would concern itself with the physics journals and other means of publication as well as relations between universities and national and international centers of learning and research. Possible activities are training and teaching of physicists, summer schools and the like, meetings, and proper balancing of research in the various branches of physics.

Also discussed at the Pisa meeting were improvement of the scientific level of the European journals, the future of *Il Nuovo Cimento*, and scientific and technical policies of some European laboratories. Regarding *Il Nuovo Cimento*, it was proposed that an International board of editors be created by the council of the Italian Physical Society to give the journal explicit and official international European character. Bernardini, who is also director of the journal, remarked that each paper in the journal will now include an abstract in Russian and that if instituted, the editorial board will be comprised of three physi-

cists from each of nine geographical areas. Russia and other socialist countries would be included as well as Israel.

Prize to Maiman, Javan

At a White House ceremony, the President presented the first Fannie and John Hertz Foundation award to Theodore H. Maiman and Ali Javan. The award, consisting of a bronze medallion and \$10 000 cash for each of the recipients, recognizes achievement and encourages continued endeavor in applied physical sciences.



MAIMAN

Maiman, in 1960, produced the first operating laser, a pulsed ruby device, while at Hughes Research Laboratories. He is now president of Korad Corp., a subsidiary of Union Carbide Corp.



JAVAN

At Bell Telephone Laboratories, in 1960, Javan conceived and collaborated in developing the first continuous-wave gas laser. He is professor of physics at MIT. □