



If the idea works out well there will be a joint meeting of the Member Societies of the Institute in the year 1951. A proposal that such a meeting be held was given general approval at the annual meeting of the Institute's Governing Board on March 13. Details of such a meeting remain to be worked out with the Societies concerned and, of course, the plan depends upon their approval.

The occasion for such a special meeting is the twentieth anniversary of the founding, by these Societies, of the Institute. It would not be without precedent. A similar meeting was held in October, 1936 in New York and it was very successful. The theme of that meeting was applied physics. The potential value of physics in industry and in close association with other sciences was then not fully realized. The meeting stands as a milestone in the development of physics because much of today's wider recognition of physics developed from this timely impetus. 1936 was the year of establishing the *Journal of Applied Physics*, an event closely associated with the fifth anniversary meeting.

Chicago has been suggested for the location of the 1951 meeting and a date in October is under consideration for various reasons. Whether or not applied physics would again be emphasized remains to be decided in conference with the Societies. Plans are, however, under way for the assembly of an instrument exhibition. Everyone was very pleased with the modest exhibition arranged in 1936 and it is obvious that much more could be done in 1951.

The Governing Board attended to much other business related to the problems and affairs of the Institute including attention to the annual reports of the staff for 1948, which will be published, in slightly condensed form, in a later issue of *Physics Today*. Some of the problems, for example that of financing the publication of research, have already been discussed in this column. Appropriate resolutions were voted out of respect to Lloyd W. Taylor and A. H. Pfund, former members of the Board who had died since the last meeting.

The Board welcomed as new members J. R. Oppenheimer, Wallace R. Brode, Paul Kirkpatrick, Harold K. Schilling and J. W. Beams. As officers for the ensuing year the Board continued G. R. Harrison as chairman, Wallace Waterfall as secretary, and George B. Pegram as treasurer. Additional members of the Executive Committee are Paul E. Klopsteg and F. W. Loomis.

The Institute has been taking on a new type of activity at the request of certain of the Societies. For several years the clerical aspects of the secretary and treasurer functions of the Society of Rheology have been handled in the Institute office. More recently the Acoustical Society has arranged for its dues to be collected through the Institute and for the office functions of its secretary to be handled by the Institute. A similar arrangement as regards dues collections has been adopted by the American Association of Physics Teachers. These various services are rendered at cost. An incidental advantage is that a good deal of duplication of effort in keeping mailing lists in order has been eliminated.

Sometime within the next two months, members will receive the annual ballot for member-at-large on the Governing Board. A nominating committee composed of D. B. Judd, chairman, Urner Liddel, L. A. Turner, Floyd A. Firestone, E. T. Booth and Robert F. Paton has been appointed to present a slate of candidates for choice in the balloting.

---

In the death of the Institute's General Manager, Cleveland Norcross, on March 21 the physicists of America have lost a competent, faithful and tireless worker in their behalf. His place in the organization, for which he acted as efficient executive, enterprising seeker of additional income and general aide for every committee and project, will be very hard to fill. Every member of the Institute's staff mourns the loss of a colleague and a friend.

Henry A. Barton