

spoke at the dinner meeting on March 11) "as spokesmen for the field during the somewhat stormy period in which the Society as a whole was attempting to decide whether to remain a one-celled organism like a paramecium or to evolve into something more complex like a starfish or a sea anemone." The division was formulated and authorized in 1947-48. Roman Smoluchowski served as its first chairman during the 1948-49 term. William Shockley is the new chairman, and A. von Hippel (vice-chairman) and S. L. Quimby have taken the place of T. A. Read and S. Siegal, the retiring members of the executive committee. The other members of the committee are A. Lawson and R. Smoluchowski.

SIGMA PI SIGMA

A chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, national student physics society, has been installed at Howard University, Washington, D. C., according to a recent announcement. The formation of other chapters at Clemson Agricultural College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Illinois Institute of Technology, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Alabama is scheduled for the current academic year. Petitions for chapters are pending from eight additional institutions.

Sigma Pi Sigma has also announced the naming of Carl H. Eckart, director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla, California, as an honorary member.

COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE

The former NRC committee on standards of radioactivity, later known as the committee on radioactivity, has been reconstituted as a committee on nuclear science. L. F. Curtiss, National Bureau of Standards, is chairman. The committee's responsibilities have been enlarged to include work on units, standards and measuring instruments in this field. It has recently published, in preliminary form, four reports for the nuclear science series. Designated as Preliminary Reports 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively, they include: "Isotopic Weights of the Fundamental Isotopes," by Kenneth T. Bainbridge; "Nuclear Electric Quadrupole Moments and Quadrupole Couplings in Molecules," by Bernard T. Feld; "Neutrons from Alpha Emitters," by Herbert L. Anderson; and "Monoenergetic Neutrons from Charged Particle Reactions," by A. O. Hanson and R. F. Taschek. Copies of these reports may be procured by writing to Dr. R. C. Gibbs, Division of Physical Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C. A fifth preliminary report, "Energy Levels of Light Nuclei," by T. Lauritsen, is now being prepared by the committee for publication.

COURSES AND LABORATORIES

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

To meet the need for trained personnel in the field of biophysics, Washington College, Chestertown, Md., is offering a course designed primarily for pre-medical and medical technology students. The course, which according to a recent announcement is believed to be the first

of its kind offered on the undergraduate level, deals with medical physics in clinical and pathological physiology and with biotechnology in engineering design.

NEW MEXICO A & M COLLEGE

The Physical Science Laboratory at New Mexico A & M College, State College, New Mexico has been expanded according to a recent announcement. The laboratory is doing research under Army and Navy contracts, and in this connection has been mainly concerned with guided missile investigations relating to work being done at the White Sands Proving Grounds.

FELLOWSHIPS

G E ANNOUNCES AWARDS

Research fellowships have been awarded by the General Electric Company under its education fund to fifteen graduate students. Seven received Charles A. Coffin Fellowships for advanced study in the physical sciences. Eight others were awarded Gerald Swope Fellowships for advanced study in industrial management, engineering, and various scientific and industrial fields.

EDWIN H. COLPITTS

Edwin H. Colpitts, retired vice-president of Bell Telephone Laboratories and pioneer in the development of long-distance and transoceanic telephone, died March 6, at the age of seventy-seven. Best known for having developed the vacuum-tube oscillator circuit which bears his name, he is remembered as well for his work with magnetic coils, his developments in the application of thermodynamic tubes to long-distance communication, and his studies of capacity unbalance between adjacent telephone circuits. In 1948 he was awarded the Cresson Medal of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia in recognition of his scientific achievements. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Acoustical Society of America.

HARVEY C. RENTSCHLER

Harvey C. Rentschler, director of research for the Westinghouse Electric Company's lamp division in Bloomfield until his retirement in 1947, died on March 23, at the age of sixty-eight. In 1922, Dr. Rentschler and John W. Marden refined samples of uranium metal from uranium salts in order to determine the suitability of that metal as a substitute for tungsten lamp filaments. Although the melting point of uranium proved to be far too low for use in filaments, the knowledge of uranium metallurgy thus gained made the Westinghouse lamp laboratory for a number of years the sole producer of the pure uranium used in early experimental work. In 1942 the laboratory was able to increase its uranium production from a few ounces to over five hundred pounds a day and supplied more than three tons of uranium for the first Chicago pile. Dr. Rentschler was a professor of physics for nine years at the University of Missouri before joining the Westinghouse research laboratories in 1917. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and of the Optical Society of America.