

ist (geologist, volcanologist, botanist, etc.), the guides of the postsessional tours were generally naturalists, and the regions visited, including the "New Zealand Alps" for all groups, were selected mainly for scenic beauty, although points of scientific interest were always pointed out.

The importance of these Congresses lies not only in the presentation and discussion of symposia and single papers, but to a large extent in the exchange of information in small groups and in visits to such points of special interest as volcanoes, earthquake faults, regions with special fauna or flora or aborigines, etc. Last, and not least, recommendations are made at the Congresses to scientific organizations or governments for new facilities of research or for improvements of existing research centers. Among many other resolutions passed at the present Congress was one calling for more gravity observations in the South Pacific, where scarcely any are being made. Modern seismographs were recommended for a number of existing seismological stations there, and a request was made for new stations to provide better information on the seismicity in the southern hemisphere.

Similar resolutions were passed in connection with meteorological and oceanographic stations, and a better and speedier exchange of all data was discussed. Much attention was given to discussions on volcanism and the prediction of volcanic eruptions, by locating on "dormant" volcanoes, for example, the point of shaking inside the volcano with seismic instruments; if the source of these volcanic tremors approaches the surface an eruption is usually imminent. Magnetic, seismic, and gravity observations in the volcanic area of New Zealand are planned and have partly been started. Fortunately for the geologists, one of the volcanoes had its strongest eruption in history (according to the specialists) while the geological and geophysical groups were in the neighborhood. The seismologists had a chance to feel an earthquake originating at a depth of about one hundred miles, a matter of considerable interest because such large focal depths are unknown in the United States and Canada.

Extended discussions concerned the history and structure of the Pacific Basin and of the processes going on in its boundary regions, as well as in the petrographic peculiarities of these processes. The special features in New Zealand were discussed during excursions on the ground and in a few cases from the air as well. There was little doubt left that the structure and phenomena of the Pacific area are unique in many respects. The information, however, is far from sufficient to give a clear picture of the origin and development of the Pacific Basin. The hypothesis that the moon formed from material taken out of the Pacific area met serious astronomical objections, as at many times previously.

The over two hundred and fifty delegates from overseas and the New Zealand scientists seemed all to be greatly satisfied by the Congress, the former by experiences in this area, which shows an unusually large variety of phenomena of interest to scientists, the latter by the advice and information which they received in their "isolated" country (as they frequently point out), and

the assurance that in most fields of research New Zealand is up to date. They also appreciated the moral support which they got from the visitors in connection with many of their problems. Still higher scientific achievements would be possible in New Zealand if there were more funds for a number of specific problems, and especially if additional research men with more adequate salaries were available.

—Beno Gutenberg

THE YOUNG PHYSICIST

A NEW SOCIETY?

The present relationship between the professional physics societies and the newcomers to the field was considered by a group of some forty physicists, many of them heads of physics departments at colleges and universities in various parts of the country, who met at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D. C. on April 27. The meeting was concerned particularly with the possibility that some further organizational development geared to the special needs of students might in large measure eliminate certain problems now facing the graduate and undergraduate physicist.

The understandable tendency toward specialization on the part of the existing professional societies in the physics field has in a sense erected a barrier between the young physicist and his future in the field. The complex and ever changing nature of physics presents a bewildering array of special interests from which he must choose, and the societies, which once were in a position to help simplify this picture, have themselves become so intricately patterned that they merely make more difficult for students the matter of deciding upon a path to follow.

The activities and services of the societies are designed for those whose formal training is completed, yet it has become a matter of great concern that young physicists are not better aware of the purposes and the works of the societies by the time they emerge as professional physicists. Reference was made in this connection to a letter from M. H. Trytten of the National Research Council (Physics Today, April, 1949) deploring the fact that all too many young scientists are not familiar with the technical societies and journals in their own fields.

Homer L. Dodge, president of the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society, proposed to the meeting that it go on record as favoring the establishment of a new society of physics students, operating through local chapters, which would be a member society of the American Institute of Physics. The aim of the new society, as proposed, would be to encourage a professional spirit among physics students, to strengthen relationships among students and professional physicists, and to popularize interest and knowledge of physics in the general collegiate public. The motion was carried without dissent.

The sense of the meeting was that the proposal be understood as an exploratory one, and that the matter should be studied in somewhat greater detail before specific proposals involving organizational structure are formulated. It was pointed out that independently organized physics clubs now exist on various campuses,

and that these might conceivably serve as a nucleus for the new society.

MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

ELECTRON MICROSCOPY AT DELFT

An international conference on electron microscopy is to be held at Delft, Holland July 4-9 under the auspices of the section for applied physics of the Netherlands Physical Society. General lectures will be read by Messrs. Astbury of the University of Leeds, Le Poole of the Technical University of Delft, Ramberg of Princeton University, Haine of Aldermaston, and Drummond of Victoria University of Manchester. Offers for short papers should be sent to Dr. V. E. Cosslett, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England, for English attendants, or to Ir. W. A. Le Rütte, Lab. voor Techn. Physica, Delft, Holland, for more details.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The annual meeting of the Colloquium of College Physicists will be held at the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, on June 16, 17, and 18. At least seventy colleges will be represented. Papers will be presented by physicists from New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. A feature of the meeting is an exhibit of experimental and non-experimental devices and models designed for use in college instruction of physics. Twenty-six colleges will participate in the exhibit.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The National Academy of Sciences has announced the election of officers, members, and foreign associates at its annual meeting held in Washington, April 25, 26, and 27. E. B. Wilson, emeritus professor of vital statistics of the Harvard School of Public Health, was elected to a four-year term as vice president, while J. H. Hildebrand of the University of California and E. W. Goodpasture of Vanderbilt University were chosen as council members for a three-year period.

New members elected to the Academy include the following physicists: R. R. Brode, M. Delbrück, W. W. Hansen, F. W. Loomis, G. B. Pegram, J. Schwinger, and F. W. H. Zachariasen. Foreign associates elected include P. A. M. Dirac of St. John's College, Cambridge, England and H. Yukawa of Kyoto University, Japan.

FELLOWSHIPS GRANTED

RCA PRE-DOCTORAL

The National Research Council has announced the awarding of Radio Corporation of America pre-doctoral fellowships in electronics to: C. K. Birdsall, David Carter, and H. C. Poulter of Stanford University; W. A. Craven, Jr. of Princeton University; Gerald Estrin of the University of Wisconsin; and Fumio Naka of Harvard University. A. L. Aden of Harvard and R. W. Olthuis of the University of Michigan, who received RCA fellowships last year, received renewals for an additional year.

AT&T

Frank B. Jewett Fellowships for 1949-1950 have been awarded by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to Harish-Chandra and Robert Karplus of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; James A. Jenkins of Harvard University; Joaquim Mazdak Luttinger of Physikalisches Institut, Zurich, Switzerland; David E. Mann of the University of Minnesota; and Harvey Winston of Columbia University.

HONORS AND AWARDS

MEDALS FOR MERIT

Three California Institute of Technology scientists, Robert A. Millikan, Clark B. Millikan, and Louis G. Dunn, have received Presidential Medals for Merit awards, the highest given by the government for civilian participation in World War II. R. A. Millikan acted in an advisory capacity on various wartime projects, was a member of the missiles committee of the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance, and as head of the Institute was responsible for training naval officers. C. B. Millikan has in the past been closely connected with the Caltech jet propulsion laboratory, and now is chairman of its directing board. He was the wartime director of wind tunnel testing at the Institute, and was an OSRD consultant. L. G. Dunn was assistant director of the jet propulsion laboratory during the war (he is now director), participated in the naval officer training program, and was a consultant for the Navy Department, the Ordnance Department, and the Air Forces.

C. Rogers McCullough, formerly director of the power pile division of Clinton Laboratories at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and at present with Monsanto Chemical Company's general development department, has received the President's Certificate of Merit in recognition of invaluable wartime scientific services. Before going to Oak Ridge, Dr. McCullough directed various phases of rocket propellant and motors work for the National Research Defense Committee.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has received the 1949 medal of the Industrial Research Institute for his leadership in the Office of Scientific Research and Development during World War II.

CYRUS B. COMSTOCK PRIZE

M. A. Tuve, director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution, has been awarded the Cyrus B. Comstock prize for his contributions to nuclear physics, development of the proximity fuse, and an increased understanding of the upper atmosphere. The award was made at a dinner of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D. C. on April 26.

STALIN PRIZE

Annual Stalin Prize awards have been received by a number of Soviet scientists for 1949. Among the physicists honored were Giorgi Latishev, chief of Leningrad's