



INSTITUTE

DOINGS

Physical Technical Institute, Sergei Vernov, chief of the Physical Institute of the Academy of Science, and Mikhail Lavrentiev, all of whom received first prize awards, and Giorgi Grinberg, Leonid Kantorovich, and Ivan Khvostikov.

SIGMA XI

Three scientists of the Washington, D. C. area have been elected to honorary membership in the Society of Sigma Xi, national honorary scientific fraternity. They are George A. Ellinger and Robert Simha, both of the National Bureau of Standards, and Charles S. Piggot, consultant to the Research and Development Board of the National Defense Establishment.

Two Union College physics instructors, James Nicol and Jerome M. Rehr, have been elected to associate membership in Sigma Xi, national honorary scientific society, according to an announcement by the Union College chapter of the society.

IRE

The Institute of Radio Engineers recently presented its Fellow Award to John N. Dyer, supervisor of radar and air navigation research and development for Airborne Instruments Laboratory, Mineola, L. I., for administrative and technical contributions to radio, including polar expedition communications, and important wartime radio counter-measures.

GEOPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

Henry G. Booker, professor of electrical engineering at Cornell University, has been elected Honorary Fellow of the Geophysical Observatory, University of Alaska. The citation was made in recognition of his contributions to basic knowledge in the field of geophysics by his work on electromagnetic wave propagation in the upper atmosphere and by his work on microwave propagation.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Harold Lyons, chief of the microwave standards laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards, has received the Arthur S. Flemming Award, presented by the Washington Junior Chamber of Commerce, for outstanding government service.

IRVING S. LOWEN

Irving S. Lowen, 38, associate professor of physics, who was at Washington Square College of Arts and Science of New York University for fifteen years, died on April 23 after an illness of six weeks. He was a research associate with the Manhattan Project. He achieved distinction for his work on cosmic rays and quantum theory of radiation. He directed a cosmic ray project under the auspices of the ONR at New York University.

HARRY M. DAVIS

Harry M. Davis, 38, science editor of Newsweek magazine was drowned in the Gulf of Mexico on May 16th. A student of engineering and physics, Mr. Davis was later a Nieman Fellow and, before serving in the Signal Corps during the war, was a Sunday feature and science writer for the New York Times.

For several years the annual reports to the members of the American Institute of Physics have begun by reviewing the general position of physics in America. Principal postwar adjustments appear to have been made by 1948 and the report for the year just past, presented at the March meeting of the Governing Board, was devoted entirely to the functioning of the American Institute of Physics. I shall summarize it here, taking rather more than my usual space to present the more important information it carries. Members of the American Institute of Physics who wish the complete reports may have them for the asking.

Any comprehensive discussion of the Institute falls naturally into three parts. The first deals with the Institute as an agency for general service and cooperation. The second deals with the Institute as a joint publishing house. The third deals with the financial aspects of the first two.

GENERAL SERVICE

It is an important part of the director's duties to follow closely the affairs, problems, and aspirations of the member societies, to encourage each to consider the interests of the others, and to provide the general community of information and reasoning which is essential as a foundation for agreement. By this process the societies are somewhat guided by each other, and the Institute is automatically guided by all. The Institute also represents the societies in external relationships and obligations with many other organizations. In this there is, in addition to the value of such service, a great saving to the societies in officer-time and expense.

Direct service to physicists and their societies includes the maintenance and administration of the joint "publishing house" and associated problems which will be treated further below. In addition there is the maintenance of associates (company memberships) partly for support of the journals; and there is the development of considerable continuing income from sources other than the societies for publishing and other operations. The amount currently received is in addition to, and also greater than, the total of dues paid by all members of all five member societies.

The Institute, because of its broad representation, is in a favorable position to solicit grants for special projects. It also promotes membership in the societies and non-member subscriptions to the journals, handles a large volume of general mail, provides legal and public relations counsel, a placement service, and maintains a headquarters building for the economical housing of Institute and society activities. It is a tangible center of adherence and a symbol of unity and strength.

The Institute exists also to help honor the obligation of physics to the community and the general culture. In many important respects the objectives and obligations of