

other sessions were held at Harvard University, and upon members of the Harvard Faculty devolved nearly all of the great amount of work required for handling this meeting so ably.

Some people were seen at the meeting who were evidently young enough to have good prospect of attending our Centennial. I hope they will not miss it, and that they will be asked to tell to that assemblage their memories of our meeting of so many years ago.

—K. K. Darrow

AUTOMATIC LIBRARIAN

RAPID SELECTOR BEING TESTED

A prototype electronic device designed to store large amounts of information and present selected categories quickly and upon demand is being tested for performance at the Department of Agriculture library in Washington. Known as the "rapid selector," it was developed from pre-war suggestions of Vannevar Bush by Engineering Research Associates of Minneapolis under the joint sponsorship of the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. Information is microfilmed and stored on standard thirty-five millimeter motion picture film, one reel of which can carry the contents of almost five hundred thousand conventional library cards. Coding on the film permits the operator of the rapid selector to obtain information on any desired subject by inserting a master key card. The selector's photoelectric eyes then scan the film at a rate of over sixty thousand subjects a minute, automatically select the desired frames, and copy them on a separate film through the use of high-speed photoflash techniques. According to a recent announcement by the two government departments, the rapid selector could, in about fifteen minutes, review all the entries that have appeared in the standard guide, "Chemical Abstracts," in the last thirty years—if one presupposed that each abstract had previously been microfilmed and properly coded with light patterns for use in the device.

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN

BROOKHAVEN COMPILES GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE

Late in 1947 all Russian scientific periodicals abandoned the practice of publishing titles and abstracts of their articles in English. Previously, such titles and abstracts had been available to the non-Russian-reading public in English, French, and German.

A large amount of scientific work is carried out in the Soviet Union, and there are many Russian scientific periodicals. The U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences publishes more than thirty journals, which are readily available outside of the Soviet Union within several months of their publication. The limited number of people who understand Russian and the recent decision of the Soviet Government to bar English translations of titles and abstracts make it extremely difficult for scientists here to learn what scientists in the Soviet Union are doing.

To meet this situation, Brookhaven National Laboratory has for over a year been publishing a Guide to Russian Scientific Periodical Literature under the direction of John Turkevich of the chemistry department and Ludmila

Turkevich of the modern language department, Princeton University. The program of this publication, of which seven issues have been published at this time, is to acquaint English-speaking scientists with the scientific work carried out in the Soviet Union.

The Guide contains translations of titles of articles in Russian scientific journals, starting with 1947, when the Russians discontinued the printing of English text in their journals. These titles include every field from astronomy to zoology. It also carries translated abstracts of articles on physics and nuclear science and complete translations of certain significant articles. The criteria of suitability are that the article fall into the field of nuclear science and be a significant contribution to science in general. To date, several such articles have been published, notably one on cosmic rays by A. I. Alikhanyan, who was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1947.

In addition, the Guide provides listings of titles of articles received at the central repository for translations of Russian scientific articles (established last December at the research library, Brookhaven National Laboratory). Many industrial organizations are contributing articles which were translated for their research needs, and close to a hundred such translations are already available from this collection through regular library channels.

The Guide to Russian Scientific Periodical Literature is available upon inquiry to the Information and Publications Division, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N. Y.

HARVARD SYNCHROCYCLOTRON DEDICATED

THIRD LARGEST IN OPERATION

Harvard University's new one hundred and twenty-five million volt synchrocyclotron, built with the cooperation of the Office of Naval Research and the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, was dedicated at ceremonies held in the University's Nuclear Laboratory on June 15. The new accelerator, third largest operating cyclotron in the country, was built to replace the twelve million volt Harvard cyclotron, built in 1937, which was moved to the Los Alamos, New Mexico laboratory of the Manhattan District in 1943. Design of the new machine began in 1946, when it was decided that the old cyclotron would not be returned to Cambridge. The project was under the general technical direction of Norman Ramsey and L. L. Davenport. They were assisted by K. T. Bainbridge, E. M. Purcell, J. C. Street, and R. W. Hickman, all of Harvard's physics department, and by other laboratory scientists.

A ROAD TO SURVIVAL

CONFERENCE ON RESOURCES

The United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources will open a three weeks session, from August 17 to September 6, at Lake Success. The immediate object of the conference is to take a first step in mobilizing techniques for making better use of the world's resources. UNSCCUR will draw from the talents, techniques, and experience of scientists and experts from all over the world, who will exchange ideas and pool information on how natural resources can

best be used to provide a higher world standard of living. The discussions will be carried out against the background of an urgent need for increased use of resources demanded by a rapidly growing world population.

UNSCCUR is the first scientific conference to be convoked by the United Nations, and is unique in the sense that its plans call for representation in terms of the science and technology of economic development rather than of individual governments.

INSTRUMENT CLINIC

PRECEDES INSTRUMENT CONFERENCE

A three-day clinic on the maintenance of industrial instruments has been scheduled by the Instrument Society of America for September 9-12 in the Statler Hotel, St. Louis. Over three hundred instrument men will participate in the clinic, which will be held in advance of the fourth National Instrument Conference and Exhibit. The latter is sponsored by the Instrument Society of America, in cooperation with the Industrial Instruments and Regulators Division, American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Instruments and Measurements Committee, American Institute of Electrical Engineers; American Institute of Physics; Institute of Radio Engineers; National Telemetering Forum; and the Scientific Apparatus Makers Association. The expected attendance at the exhibit will exceed ten thousand. About thirty technical sessions will be held during the week and will cover every phase on instrumentation in science and industry.

SEMICONDUCTORS

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

Preliminary announcement has been made of a conference on the properties of semiconducting materials to be held at the British University of Reading from July 11 to 14, 1950. The conference is to be sponsored by the International Union of Physics in cooperation with the Royal Society and will cover topics in electrical conduction in nonmetallic solids, properties of barrier layers, crystal valves, etc. It has been noted that thermionic emission from oxide coated cathodes, luminescence, and dielectric loss are not considered within the scope of the conference. N. F. Mott of Bristol, K. Lark-Horovitz of Purdue University, G. Busch of Zurich, and A. E. Sandström of Uppsala all have accepted invitations to present papers. Accommodations for both British and other visitors will be available in two halls of residence of the University. Further information concerning applications for attendance, program, and registration will be published at a later date. The announcement was made by R. S. Ditchburn, Department of Physics, The University, Reading, Berks., England.

CORRECTION

GUGGENHEIM GRANT IN PHYSICS

In listing Guggenheim Memorial Foundation grants in physics for 1949 in the July issue of *Physics Today*, the name of Harald H. Nielsen, chairman of the Ohio State University's department of physics and astronomy, was inadvertently omitted. His fellowship award was made

for the study of higher order interactions in polyatomic molecules.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT ARGONNE

According to a recent announcement by the Argonne National Laboratory, Paul E. Klopsteg, director of research at Northwestern University's Technological Institute, has been elected to serve as chairman of the Laboratory's board of governors for the year 1949-50; Warren C. Johnson, associate dean of the division of physical sciences at the University of Chicago, has been named vice president. Elected to membership on the board of governors at a recent meeting were the following: Ernest F. Barker of the University of Michigan; A. C. G. Mitchell of Indiana University; and Edward Creutz of the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Other members of the board are Andrew C. Ivy of the University of Illinois and Louis A. Turner of Iowa State University. Retiring members of the board are: John T. Tate of the University of Minnesota; Reuben G. Gustavson of the University of Nebraska; and Farrington Daniels of the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Daniels has been elected chairman of the council of participating institutions for the coming year.

CHICAGO PHYSICS CLUB

The Physics Club of Chicago, at a meeting held on May 10, elected: H. A. Leedy, president; F. T. Jung, vice-president; W. M. Urbain, secretary; J. S. Kemp, treasurer; and C. A. Benz, H. C. Hardy, and E. H. Nieman, directors.

GEORGE H. HENDERSON

George H. Henderson, professor of physics at Dalhousie University and head of the Naval research establishment at Halifax, Nova Scotia, died on June 20 at the age of fifty-six while traveling to New Brunswick. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Society, London.

PRESTON S. MILLAR

Preston S. Millar, president of Electrical Testing Laboratories, Inc., died suddenly on June 17 at the age of sixty-nine. One of the founders of the Illuminating Engineering Society, he served as its president in 1913, and in 1945 received the Society's Gold Medal for his outstanding contributions in the illuminating field. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was a member of the American Optical Society and of a number of other professional organizations as well.

VAN L. NIXON

Ivan L. Nixon, vice president in charge of Bausch and Lomb Optical Company's scientific instrument division, died on June 25 at the age of sixty-five after a brief illness. He was a member of the Optical Society of America and chairman of the optical section of the Scientific Apparatus Makers of America.