

320 Physicists from 43 Nations Talk of Old and New at Trieste

This summer a truly international gathering of physicists met in Trieste to exchange ideas from all branches of contemporary physics and to reminisce with distinguished senior colleagues on the founding of the subject as we know it today. In all 43 nations were represented by 320 participants, and the topics discussed ranged from the development of

quantum mechanics in the 1920's to the latest observations on quasars and pulsars.

The International Centre for Theoretical Physics (PHYSICS TODAY, September, page 77) was host for the 7-29 June meeting, which was sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency with support from ten Italian, US and British sources.

Abdus Salam, head of the center, directed planning with an international committee of 21.

Five senior physicists spoke of their philosophies under the general title "From a Life of Physics" in a group of evening lectures. Four of them—Hans Bethe, Paul Dirac, Werner Heisenberg and Eugene Wigner—are Nobel laureates, and the fifth, Oskar



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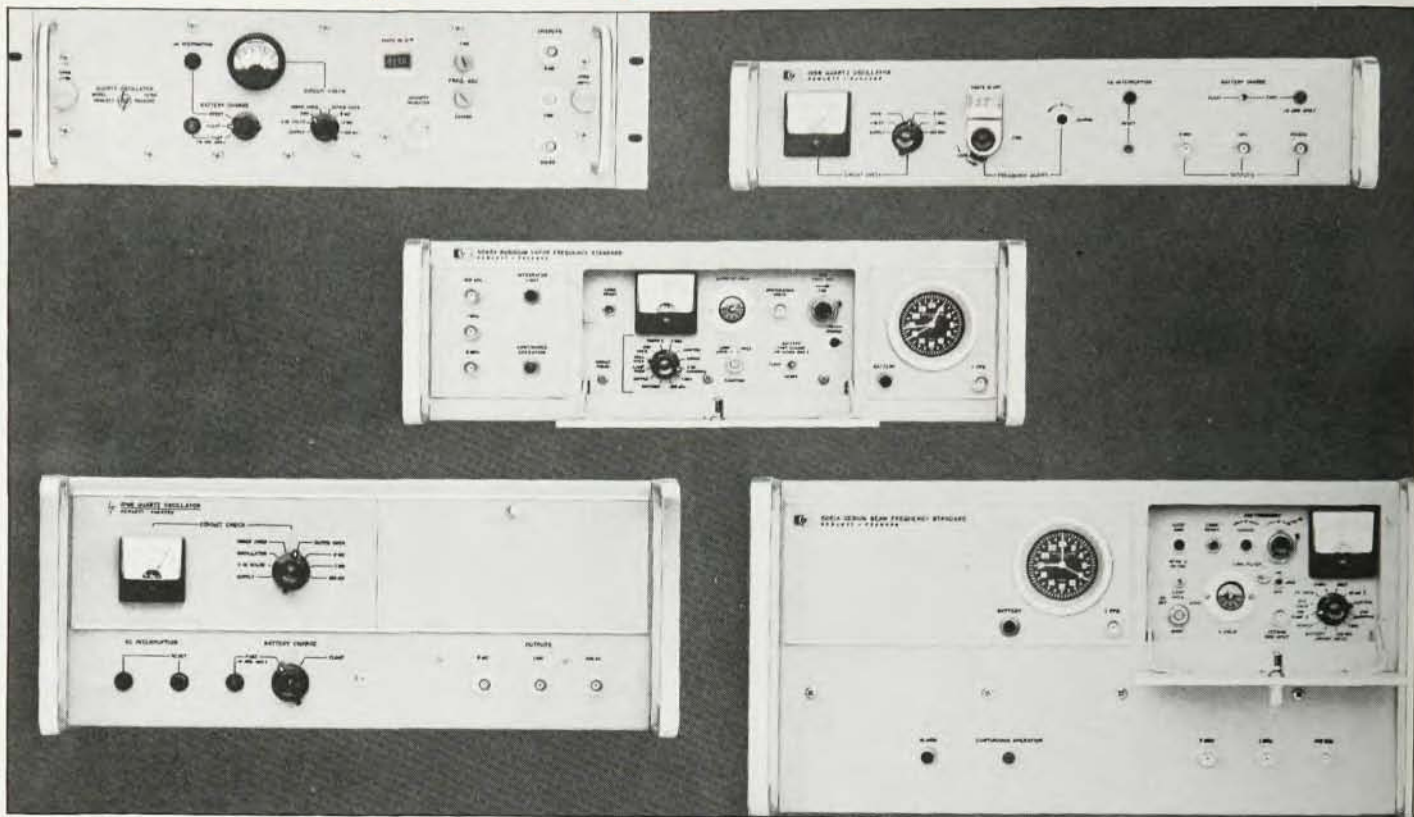


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MEETINGS

Klein, is a member of the Nobel Prize Committee. Each physicist talked of his own career and the various problems that have engaged his attention. In addition Heisenberg spoke of the way in which theoretical physicists approach their work and emphasized that they should try to keep in touch with their experimental colleagues. Wigner's talk mentioned scientists' motives, their attitude to society and the changing aspects of scientific life.

The scientific sessions encompassed all contemporary physics. Salam in-

troduced the elementary-particle papers with a survey of current problems and methods. Julian Schwinger, Léon Van Hove, Tsung Dao Lee, Yuval Ne'eman, Richard Dalitz, Sergio Fubini and Steven Weinberg were among the other physicists who spoke on this topic.

Illustrated in the photographs on these pages, as well as those already mentioned, are Francis Crick, who spoke in the biophysics session on the genetic code, and V. A. Fock and L. Fonda (scientific secretary of the meeting) caught at a jovial moment with Salam at the banquet. □



BETHE



CRICK

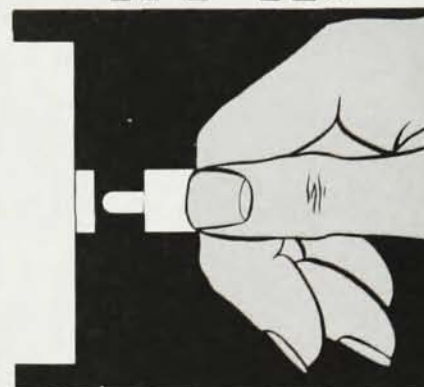


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