

ment of arid lands. It found the nuclear complex (or "nuplex") might find application in parts of Australia, India, Mexico, the Middle East, Peru and the U.S. Reactors could provide 10^9 gallons of fresh water a day, enough to irrigate 300 000 acres of crops. Industrial plants might produce fertilizers, aluminum, phosphorus, caustic-chlorine, magnesium and ammonia.

The study was conducted for the Atomic Energy Commission by Edward A. Mason of MIT. Already the AEC is following up with a study of the potential for nuplexes in the Middle East. This one will suggest specific sites.

IPPS Membership Rises 8%; Deficit Totals \$11 000

The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society reported at its annual meeting a membership increase of 8% and an operating deficit of \$11 000 for 1967.

Membership growth to 13 178 was caused chiefly by new graduate and associate members, which make up nearly two-thirds of total membership. Associate members now total 4250 and graduates 4000. The growth raised the institute's income; yet expenditures rose to \$680 000 resulting in the net deficit for the year.

The meeting elected Malcolm R. Gavin, of the University of North Wales, as president; Robert Press as honorary secretary; P. T. Menzies as honorary treasurer; and Bryan R. Coles as vice-president. Peter B. Hirsch, Alfred J. Kennedy and J. E. Roberts were elected new members of the council.

Wiesner, Hornig Revive Talk Of Federal Science Department

The question of creating a single federal science agency to formulate overall policy has been revived as the budget squeeze causes scientists to re-examine administration and planning methods. Support for the idea, or at least for a new examination of it, was voiced recently by Jerome B. Wiesner, MIT provost and former White House science adviser, and by Donald F. Hornig, the present White House adviser.

Wiesner proposed using the National Science Foundation as the core of a new research and development agency that would expand into urban

and environmental areas. According to Wiesner, such an agency would provide the answer to what he called a "seriously lopsided research program." US leadership may be passing to Europe and Japan in such fields as high-energy physics, some areas of solid-state physics, astronomy, some areas of metallurgy and specialized instrumentation fields such as high-resolution electron microscopy, he said.

There has been no time since World War II, Wiesner continued, "when sci-

entists have been more discouraged." He spoke at the dedication of a new technical information center by the Celanese Research Co. in Summit, N.J.

Hornig told the American Chemical Society in Atlantic City that it is time to examine the idea of a federal science department by means of studies, public discussion and congressional debates. While he did not take a stand Hornig said that if such a department is created, it should be built around the NSF.

European Physical Society Plans For 10 000 Members

The European Physical Society is a going concern after three years of discussion and planning and surprises right up to the moment it came into existence in a University of Geneva lecture hall. Eighteen national physical societies and academies joined on inauguration day with at least three more expected to follow in the near future.

More than 60 physicists from all over Europe, many who had taken a hand in forming the society, joined as individuals the same day. This number is expected to exceed 1000 by the society's first scientific congress next April and to approach 10 000 in the next several years.

On 24 Sept., two days before the inaugural ceremonies in Geneva, the steering committee did not know whether the Russian physicists planned to join. The next day, however, Lev D. Artisimovich indicated the Soviets would be charter members.

More groups, including some from

additional countries, are expected to enroll. An East German group is expected to join, as are organizations in Poland and Turkey.

EPS encompasses more territory than Europe proper. The constitution provides that the society shall "contribute to and promote the advancement of physics in Europe and in neighboring countries." One of the charter members is the Israeli Physical Society. Other charter national members are Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, West Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USSR and Yugoslavia.

Lorette Etienne-Amberg, a PhD-physicist who had been scientific secretary of the steering committee, is executive secretary of the new society. On a New York visit in October, she explained classes of membership in an interview with the editors of PHYSICS TODAY.

National societies and academies and laboratories and research institutions may join as units. For example, the European Plasma Physics group has joined as a unit. They pay dues on a sliding scale that starts at about \$1 per person per year and drops off for larger societies. These members elect one representative to the EPS Council for the first 500 members, one for the second 500 members, one for the next 1000 members and one for the next 3000 members. A member society with more than 5000 members will have five representatives on the council.

Individuals, whether or not they are members of a member society, may join EPS directly. They are entitled to vote, to elect their own separate representatives to the council and to receive the same services from EPS as do member societies. It is this figure



DR ETIENNE-AMBERG