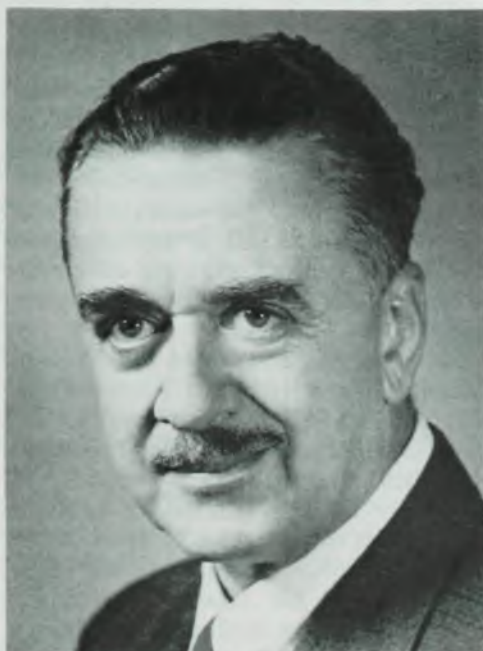


Morse receives ASA Gold Medal

Philip McCord Morse, professor emeritus of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been named to receive the 1973 Gold Medal of the Acoustical Society of America. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Acoustical Society this month in Boston.

A former president of ASA (1950-51) and the outgoing president of the American Physical Society (see page 23 for his retirement address), Morse's versatility is evidenced by a diverse train of accomplishments. During World War II he became a pioneer in the field of operations research, for which he was awarded the Presidential Medal for Merit, the nation's highest civilian award for defense-related activity. But Morse is also an important and prolific author, who can number among his most significant works *Quantum Mechanics*, written jointly with E. U. Condon in 1929, *Vibration and Sound* (1936), *Methods of Theoretical Physics*, written in collaboration with Herman Feshbach (1953), and *Theoretical Acoustics*, completed jointly with Uno Ingard in 1968. Morse also served as the first director of Brookhaven National Laboratory (1946-48); he was the first director of research for the Weapons System Evaluation Group of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1948-50), and he was the first director of the MIT Computation Center (1956).

Upon completing his PhD at Princeton University in 1929, Morse became an instructor in physics there. In 1931 he joined MIT as an assistant professor. It was there, while teaching a course on "Sound, Speech and Audi-



MORSE

tion," that the field of acoustics became of primary interest to him for the first time. Morse was made chairman of the Committee on Sound Control in Combat Vehicles in 1941, eventually going to Washington to head the newly established Navy Operations Research Group. This activity resulted in his collaboration with G. E. Kimball on yet another book, *Methods of Operations Research* (1950), and it culminated in his election as the first president of the Operations Research Society of America in 1952. Morse returned to MIT in 1950, where he has continued throughout the years to serve the scientific community in his varied roles as teacher, author, theoretician and administrator.

Buckley Solid State Physics Prize in recognition of his "broad contributions to the understanding of structural phase transitions by means of inelastic neutron scattering." Shirane, who was born in Japan and received his doctorate in physics from the University of Tokyo in 1954, has worked at Tokyo Institute of Technology (1947-52), Pennsylvania State University (1952-56), Westinghouse National Laboratory (1957-63), and Brookhaven National

Laboratory. He is now senior scientist in the physics department at Brookhaven.

The Irving Langmuir Prize went to Rentzepis, head of the Department of Physical Chemical Research and Development at Bell Labs. He was cited for his "leading role in the discovery and development of picosecond spectroscopy, particularly in the study of optical relaxation processes." Rentzepis completed his PhD in physical chemistry at Cambridge University in 1963, at which time he joined Bell Labs.

Keith and Padden were jointly awarded the American Physical Society High Polymer Physics Prize. They were cited for "outstanding investigations of the morphology of crystalline polymers and its relation to macroscopic physical properties, particularly through microscopic studies of the growth and organization of spherulitic structures." Keith, who received his PhD from the University of Bristol, UK, in 1951, was a member of the technical staff at Bell Labs from 1960 to 1969. Since then he has been head of the Analytical Chemistry Department there. Padden, presently secretary-treasurer of the APS division of high-polymer physics, has been a member of the technical staff at Bell Labs since 1960.

Black physicists honored at awards ceremony

Three black physicists, Halson V. Eagleson, Donald A. Edwards and John McNeile Hunter, were recently honored in a ceremony held at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. In response to the fact that only one-third of one percent of all PhD-holding physicists are black, the Committee to Honor Research and Teaching Achievements of Black Physicists chose to recognize these three men who collectively have taught over 90% of the black physicists holding PhD's today.

Eagleson, who was only the fourth black to receive a doctorate in physics in the US, is a past president of the National Institute of Science, the largest black scientific organization in the country. After completing his PhD at the University of Indiana in 1939, he became professor of physics and head

American Physical Society presents awards to four

The American Physical Society presented awards to four physicists at its March meeting in San Diego. They are Gen Shirane, of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Peter M. Rentzepis, H. Douglas Keith and Frank J. Padden, Jr, all of Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Shirane was awarded the Oliver E.