

the physics community

Plans for OSA meetings include tutorial seminars

The Optical Society of America has instituted two changes in its national meetings structure: the introduction of special tutorial-review seminars into the format of the national meetings and the discontinuation of one of the two semiannual meetings, beginning in 1975.

The tutorial-review seminars, designed to introduce Society members to unfamiliar areas of optics and to present background information necessary to an understanding of current research programs, were tried for the first time at the fall 1973 meeting in Rochester and met with a favorable reaction. Additional tutorial-review sessions—on space communications, long-baseline interferometry, sub-millimeter wave applications and the biological effects of photons—are planned for the joint meeting with APS next spring in Washington.

The decision to eliminate one of the semiannual meetings was made on the basis of the growing popularity of the

topical meetings and the belief that more members would attend a single annual meeting. The number of topical and special interest meetings will be increased.

Special postdoctoral fellowships at LASL

Beginning around July, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory will offer a limited number of special postdoctoral research appointments. They will be known as the J. Robert Oppenheimer Research Fellowships and will carry an initial stipend of \$22 500 per year. The appointments will be for one or two years, with possibility of renewal for a third year.

According to Harold M. Agnew, director of the Laboratory, the primary objective of the fellowships is "to increase and deepen contacts between the Laboratory and that select number of recent recipients of doctoral degrees who show clear and definite promise of becoming outstanding leaders in scientific research."

Because an Atomic Energy Commission "Q" clearance is normally required, appointees must ordinarily be US citizens. Persons interested in being considered for the appointments should contact the Personnel Director, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544.

British institute drops physics exhibitions

The Institute of Physics Council has decided to discontinue the IOP-sponsored Physics Exhibition. Fifty-seven exhibitions in the series were held from 1905 to 1973. The 1975 exhibition, which was provisionally arranged, will not take place.

The number of exhibitors (especially industrial) and visitors has fallen substantially in recent years. This type of generalized scientific exhibition without a unifying theme appears to be unattractive to both exhibitors and visitors, the Institute said. The Institute's expertise will now be concentrated on smaller specialized exhibitions.

Profile: William W. Havens Jr

Coming and going between his two Manhattan offices, William W. Havens Jr must feel some sense of relief when, at night, he goes home to Dobbs Ferry, a suburb north of the city.

A professor of physics and director of the Division of Nuclear Science and Engineering at Columbia University, Havens is also the executive secretary of the American Physical Society. He spends about a third of his time at the APS office, attending to the day-to-day business of the Society, planning meetings, coordinating input from the divisions, sections and committees of the Society, keeping an eye on Society-sponsored programs, and in general seeing to it that everything that needs to be done gets done.

A nuclear physicist, Havens specializes in neutron spectroscopy. Over the years, he and his colleagues have designed several improved neutron-velocity spectrometers and other sophisticated nuclear instruments. Havens is still active in the field; he collects fundamental neutron data needed in the design and construction of fast breeder reactors.

A native New Yorker, Havens attended City College and Columbia. As a graduate student at Columbia in the early 1940's, he worked on the diffusion and neutron-reactor projects under way at the university's Division of War Research. His thesis project on neutron spectroscopy—eventually taken over by the Manhattan Project—grew out of this earlier work, and in 1946 he received his

doctorate, at the same time joining the faculty there.

Havens's association with the APS began at Columbia. The Society had been founded there in 1899, and in the early forties its annual meeting was still held there. Traditionally, physics teaching assistants operated slide-projectors at the meetings. One of Havens's early duties was the supervision of these teaching assistants. Since he had to arrange their schedules, he naturally found himself involved in planning the meetings. Later he became chairman of the Metropolitan section (dissolved in 1952).

When George B. Pegram—for almost forty years the Society's treasurer—suffered two heart attacks, the Council decided that a deputy treasurer and a deputy secretary were needed to handle the increased administrative load. Havens was appointed deputy secretary in 1955. He continued to learn more and more about the APS, and during four months each summer, when secretary Karl Darrow made an annual visit to Europe, he ran the Society's executive office. The Council appointed him executive secretary in 1967.

The most important change during his tenure in office, Havens feels, has been the increased responsibility and participation of the divisions and the Forum in governing and determining the direction of the Society. He expects the Society to undertake more new projects—such as the energy study now being organized—that will involve both physicists



and the APS in work beneficial to society as a whole as well as the physics profession.

Havens is on the Governing Board and the Executive Committee of the American Institute of Physics; he is a member of the Committee on the Protection against Neutron Radiation of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, and he is a member and past chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission's Neutron Cross Section Advisory Group.

—JG