

Wentzel receives 1975 Max Planck Medal

The German Physical Society has presented its annual Max Planck Medal to Gregor Wentzel. Three other GPS awards were also presented in 1975: the Physics Prize was given to Dieter Haidt of Switzerland, Karl-Heinz Zschau of Germany was awarded the Walter Schottky Prize and Trevor Simpson Moss of England received the Max Born Prize (see PHYSICS TODAY, November, page 81).

Wentzel, who is known as one of the first physicists to treat collision processes quantum mechanically, received his doctorate from the University of Munich in 1921. Working at the same time as Hendrik Kramers and Louis Brillouin, but independent of them, he developed a method for approximating the energies of stationary states. (This method was first discussed by H. Jeffreys in 1924 and is now known as the WKB approximation). He has been a professor of physics at the University of Leipzig (1926-28), the University of Zurich (1928-48), and the University of Chicago (1948-69). He wrote the *Quantum Theory of Fields* (1949) and

received an honorary doctorate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in 1966. Wentzel retired from teaching in 1969 and now lives in Switzerland.

The Max Planck Medal was awarded to Wentzel on 3 September 1975. The medal is awarded annually by the GPS for achievements in physics particularly relevant to the work of Max Planck. Wentzel was cited for his contributions to quantum theory, including the classification of atomic spectra, the treatment of collisional and radiative spectra and the quantization and study of physical fields.

Haidt, the winner of the Physics Prize, was recognized for his contributions to the discovery of neutral weak currents in elementary-particle physics through the determination of neutron structure. The prize was conferred upon Haidt also at the September GPS ceremony.

The Schottky Prize for solid-state physics had earlier been awarded to Zschau for his work in liquid-phase epitaxy. Also noted were his technical



WENTZEL

improvements in the construction of semiconductor components. He received the Schottky Prize in March 1975.

Liebmann Memorial and Zworykin Awards presented

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers presented the Morris N. Liebmann Memorial and Vladimir K. Zworykin Awards at the International Electron Devices Meeting in Washington, D.C. Each award consists of a certificate and \$1000.

The Liebmann award was shared by three staff members of Bell Laboratories: Andrew H. Bobeck, Paul C. Michaelis, and H. E. D. Scovil. Established in 1919, the award honors important contributions to emerging technologies. This 1975 award was presented to Bobeck, Michaelis and Scovil "for the concept and development of single-walled magnetic domains (magnetic bubbles), and for the recognition of their importance in memory technology."

The Zworykin award was presented to E. I. Gordon, also of Bell Laboratories, and R. E. Simon of RCA Electrical Components. Gordon and Simon were

recognized for "the invention and leadership in the development of the silicon camera tube." Established in 1950, the award honors outstanding contributions to electronic television.

SPS presents Bendix and White awards

In appreciation of student research efforts, the Society of Physics Students presented Bendix and Marsh W. White awards to a total of fourteen SPS chapters. The White awards were established to encourage projects designed to promote both public and student interest in physics. The Bendix awards support student research.

Chapters receiving both awards were at: University of Central Arkansas, Conway; East Texas State University, Commerce; University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Other Bendix award winners were at Lawrence Institute of Technology,

Southfield, Mich.; University of Lowell, Lowell, Mass.; Morgan State University, Baltimore, Md.; Principia College, Elmhurst, Ill. and Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Chapters receiving only White awards were at Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne; Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C.; Notre Dame College, Cleveland, Ohio; West Virginia University, Morgantown and University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

Percus and Susskind win 1975 Pregel Awards

The New York Academy of Sciences has presented the 1975 Boris Pregel Awards to Jerome K. Percus for his research in chemical physics and to Leonard Susskind for his work in nuclear physics. Percus earned his doctorate from Columbia University in 1954 and is now a professor at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences of New York University. Susskind, a theoretical