

# News and views

## SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

### NEW APS DIVISION OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS

In 1945 the Council of the American Physical Society appointed a committee to organize a Division of Chemical Physics, but for various reasons the committee did not act. At its February, 1950 meeting the Council again appointed the same persons (O. Beeck; F. G. Brickwedde; J. E. Mayer; O. K. Rice; R. S. Mulliken, chairman) as a new Organizing Committee. Subsequent to the recent greatly regretted death of Dr. Beeck, the committee has been enlarged by the addition of J. G. Kirkwood and H. H. Nielsen.

As stated in the draft of a set of Bylaws drawn up by the committee for submission to the Council at its next meeting: "The principal objective of the new Division shall be the advancement of understanding in subjects of chemical interest whose development depends strongly on modern physical theories or techniques."

The draft Bylaws further state: "The Members of the Division shall consist of those *Members and Fellows of the Physical Society* who have made written application for enrollment in the Division and have paid an initiation fee of two dollars. Application for membership together with initiation fee shall be sent to the Treasurer of the Division." Pending the appointment of a Treasurer, applications for membership accompanied by initiation fee may be sent to R. S. Mulliken, Physics Department, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois. Interested persons who are *not now* members of the American Physical Society should first seek the sponsorship of two members of the Society for nomination to membership. (Nomination blanks can be secured from K. K. Darrow, Secretary of the American Physical Society, Columbia University, New York 27, New York.) Members of the Physical Society are entitled to obtain the *Journal of Chemical Physics* at reduced subscription rates. For the present, no annual dues are contemplated for membership in the Division of Chemical Physics, but only an initiation fee.

The inaugural meeting of the Division will be held as a part of the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Physical Society on March 8th to 10th, 1951. It will comprise a symposium on molecular structure and valence theory, and symposia on other topics involving statistical mechanics. In June at Columbus, Ohio the Division will be joint sponsor of the symposium on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy at Ohio State University.

Since the Division is in a formative stage, its precise scope is still under discussion. Proposals have been made that it should include "appropriate aspects of such subjects as the following: chemical binding and valence phenomena, intermolecular forces, chemical kinetics, chemical thermodynamics and statistical mechanics, optical, dielectric, and magnetic properties of molecules and crystals, molecular spectra of all kinds, mass spectroscopy of molecules, radiation chemistry, isotopic and other exchange phenomena, and

radiochemistry." Interested persons are invited to state their views on the proper scope and functions of the Division when they apply for enrollment.

## PHYSICISTS IN TRAINING

### ANNUAL SURVEY

The annual survey of physicists in training made by Marsh W. White, executive secretary of Sigma Pi Sigma, shows a continued increase in the numbers of students at all levels. During the 1949-50 academic year 12,670 students were registered as undergraduate physics majors and 5,560 were taking graduate work in physics. The total of 18,230 is 1,680 larger than for the preceding year and represents more than 100 percent increase over prewar numbers. During the 1948-49 year 3,500 bachelor's degrees in physics were awarded; 920 graduates received the master's degree and 275 the doctorate. Each of these figures will be substantially higher for 1949-50. The complete report of this study is to be published in an early issue of the *American Journal of Physics*.

## STUDENTS AND THE DRAFT

### A PREMIUM ON ABILITY

Two years ago Major General Lewis B. Hershey, director of the Selective Service System, appointed six scientific advisory committees (representing the agricultural and biological sciences, the engineering sciences, the healing arts, the humanities, the physical sciences, and the social sciences) to advise him on the question of how Selective Service should classify students in the "best interest of the national economy and the health, safety and interest of the Nation." The joint report of the advisory committees was submitted to General Hershey on October 5th with the request that the policies recommended therein be adopted at an early date and that local boards be issued instructions to put them into effect.

The six advisory committees were under the general chairmanship of M. H. Trytten of the National Research Council and the committee representing the physical sciences had as its members H. A. Barton of the American Institute of Physics, G. O. Curme, Jr. of Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corporation, R. C. Gibbs of the NRC, T. B. Nolan of the Department of the Interior, and S. S. Wilks of Princeton University.

In order to bring the committees' recommendations to the immediate attention of this journal's readers, the report is reproduced below in full. In reading the report it should be remembered that the recommendations were necessarily formulated to coincide with the Selective Service Act (Public Law 759), which requires that adequate provision be made for maximum effort in scientific research and development, that full use be made of scientific and other critical manpower resources, and that at the same time "an adequate armed strength must be achieved and maintained to insure the security of this Nation."

REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM  
BY THE SIX COMMITTEES ON SCIENTIFIC, PROFESSIONAL, AND  
SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL

### A. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### I. Recommendations concerning the training of scientific, professional, and specialized personnel.

These recommendations are intended to protect the national interest by providing for the further training of those