

MARKET TIPS

BOOM IN RADIATION DETECTORS

The Atomic Energy Commission a short while ago issued its second annual catalogue of Radiation Instruments (available from the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, \$2.00), observing as it did so that a total of eighty-four U. S. firms are now engaged in the manufacture of one hundred and eighty different types of radiation detection instruments and their components and accessories. This marks an increase of seventeen such firms since 1949, the AEC went on, adding that in this period another seventy-eight different instrument types have become available. The catalogue itself lists well over five hundred specific items—counters, chambers, dosimeters, film badges, and so on.

A news release put out by one of the above mentioned firms, The Radiac Company of New York City, provides further background. Across the counter geiger counter sales are on the increase, says the company cheerfully, and radiation detection instrument sales in general were seventy-five percent higher during August than they were in July. "All types of people from all walks of life," says Radiac, "are responsible for this new interest in geiger counters. Heretofore the majority of interest has originated from radiochemical laboratories, governmental agencies, schools, mine owners, and amateur prospectors. Now the interest stems from a wide variety of people: business executives, taxi drivers, bookkeepers, school teachers, stock brokers, office girls, mailmen, bank tellers, housewives, old time western sourdoughs, and agents from friendly foreign governments." By coincidence, another AEC publication, *The Effects of Atomic Weapons*, became available in early August, accompanied by a certain fanfare in the papers and a rumble from Korea.

NEW JOURNALS

ACOUSTICS

A European counterpart of the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* is to make its initial appearance next year, possibly in January, according to the editors. The new journal, bearing the name *Acustica*, is to be published six times a year and its international character is to be insured by a provision that the five members of the editorial board shall represent five countries and nationalities. The board is at present composed of F. Canac (Marseille) for France, A. Giacomini (Rome) for Italy, A. J. King (Manchester) for Great Britain, C. W. Kosten (Delft) for the Netherlands, and E. Meyer (Göttingen) for Germany. England, France, and Germany will have permanent members on the editorial board, to be nominated by the Physical Societies of those countries. These three editors will select the other two in rotation from various other nations.

Present plans call for both theoretical and experimental papers on acoustics reporting results of original research. The journal is also to carry occasional survey articles, lists of current literature, and letters to the editor. All languages are to be allowed in principle, although for the convenience of readers the editorial board has expressed the hope that papers will be written either in English, French, or German. If funds are available, it is planned that special supplements will be distributed, and in the case of recent acoustics literature in Germany, for instance, supplementary issues may be used by Professor Meyer to publish papers accumulated since the abandonment of the *Akustische Zeitschrift*.

The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, together with the British, French, and German Physical Societies, have been invited to sponsor the journal.

ATMOSPHERIC AND TERRESTRIAL PHYSICS

According to word from Great Britain, another bi-monthly scientific periodical, the *Journal of Atmospheric and Terrestrial Physics*, is to be published by Butterworth-Heinemann of London. The journal is to be edited by Sir Edward Appleton and is to be mainly archival in nature. It will carry research papers, book reviews, and announcements of interest to those concerned with the field. A subscription rate of £3/10/10 (ten dollars) per volume has been set by the publishers. Each volume will total about four hundred pages.

DEADLINE IN DECEMBER

ONR CONTRACTS FOR ASTRONOMY, ASTROPHYSICS

Applications for the support of research projects in astronomy and astrophysics are again being accepted by the Office of Naval Research, according to a recent announcement, and the National Research Council has at the request of ONR appointed an advisory committee to recommend specific projects for support. The committee has suggested that the average cost for projects should be about \$3000, with a maximum not appreciably in excess of \$5000. Applicants are urged to submit ten copies of application material (containing a full description of the project, a cost breakdown, and, if possible, a letter of approval from the institution at which the work will be performed). Applications must be received by the ONR on or before December 15. They should be addressed to the Chief of Naval Research, Washington 25, D. C., Attention Dr. Mina Rees, Director, Mathematical Sciences Division.

E. A. Milne

Edward Arthur Milne, British mathematician and astronomer best known for his theory of kinematic relativity, died in Dublin September 27th at the age of 54. It was in 1933 that Dr. Milne first postulated his theory of measuring time by atomic standards, a scale referred to as kinematic time. The later expansion of his theory included a reconstruction of the whole of mechanics and electrodynamics incorporating much of Einstein's special theory of relativity. Dr. Milne received his education at Oxford and Cambridge and was professor of mathematics at Wadham College, Oxford where he had been a fellow since 1928. He contributed to numerous physical and astronomical journals and in 1935 published a book, *Relativity, Gravitation and World Structure*. At the time of his death he was attending a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in Dublin.

James I. Shannon

The Reverend James I. Shannon, 81, director of the St. Louis University department of physics since 1913, died September 8 from complications following an operation. Father Shannon was born in Hastings, Ontario and came to St. Louis for study in 1896. Besides building a strong physics department at St. Louis he founded the University's department of geology. He was a member of numerous professional societies, including the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, and Sigma Xi.