



# INSTITUTE

## DOINGS

The recent meetings of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers in New York provided an opportunity to convene a number of committees and boards—mostly in the Institute's building on 55th Street. The earliest of these, January 31, was the Committee on the 1951 Anniversary Meeting. This is the joint meeting of the Member Societies and the Institute which will be held in Chicago during the week of October 22, 1951 on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Institute.

The Committee planning the meeting is composed of representatives of the Member Societies and several others, all of whom have not yet been appointed. They are now J. C. Boyce, K. K. Darrow (Physical Society), A. C. Hardy (Optical Society), P. E. Klopsteg (American Association of Physics Teachers), E. H. Land, J. C. Steinberg (Acoustical Society), and W. R. Willets (Society of Rheology). The plan has crystallized so far as to call for Optical Society and Acoustical Society meetings early in the sessions and for APS and AAPT meetings at the end. The time for the Society of Rheology remains undecided.

For about four half days in the middle of the sessions there will be general meetings and symposia each designed to be of value of the members of more than one society. Some of these will be of general concern to all interested in physics. There will be a banquet on the middle evening. The underlying theme of this anniversary meeting has not been selected nor have specific subjects been set for the symposia. The Committee is considering a number of ideas, but would like to have more suggested.

The final committee meeting of the week, February 4, was that of the Institute's Publication Board. This is composed of the editors of all the journals published at the Institute and several Institute staff members: Wallace Brode, *Journal of the Optical Society of America*; J. W. Buchta, *Reviews of Modern Physics*; F. A. Firestone, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*; G. P. Harnwell, *Review of Scientific Instruments*; E. Hutchisson, *Journal of Applied Physics*; D. A. Katcher, *Physics Today*; J. C. Mayer, *Journal of Chemical Physics*; T. H. Osgood, *American Journal of Physics*; J. T. Tate, *Physical Review*; H. A. Barton, Ruth F. Bryans, and Wallace Waterfall.

The Publication Board meets about once each year to discuss common problems which its members confront in their task of editing and publishing the physics family of

journals. They have, indeed, authority under the contracts between the Societies and the Institute to decide many matters and instruct the Institute in regard to uniform practices. This year they were most concerned with a style manual soon to be published.

The Institute Style Manual will apply to all of the journals. It will contain a considerable amount of information necessary or helpful to contributors of articles for publication. Beginning with a short history of what happens to a manuscript, it will have chapters on the preparation of a scientific paper and its abstract, the preparation of figures, matters of general style and the presentation of mathematical expressions. A table of special characters available will be included.

The editors are also dealing with various problems related to copyrighting, prepublication, and reproduction which are too complex to set forth here. They considered how best to put into effect the new \$8 per page rate for the publication charge. (It remains \$4 in the *American Journal of Physics* and gratis in the *Reviews of Modern Physics* and *Physics Today*.)

The editors want to improve the abstracts printed with articles so that in every case such abstracts can be used as they stand for the journal, *Physics Abstracts*. This would save much money and expedite the appearance of the item in the abstracts journal. A world wide movement along these lines is in progress. Of course, it is necessary to prepare abstracts with the reference function in mind if this procedure is to be satisfactory.

In between the two meetings mentioned there were held meetings of the American Physical Society Council, the Executive and Policy Committees of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Editorial Board of the *Review of Scientific Instruments*, the Executive Committee of the Society of Sigma Pi Sigma, an advisory Committee of the Office of Naval Research, the United States National Committee of the International Institute of Crystallography, and a committee of the National Research Council.

The Institute's committee room is well furnished and lighted. It is situated on the second floor front and seats twenty-five comfortably. It is ideal in winter though apt to be a little noisy and hot in summer. The Institute's central location makes it a convenient and frequently used meeting place. Arrangements for meetings must be made well in advance and there are a few necessary restrictions on the nature of the meetings.

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