

ice, American Institute of Physics, 57 East 55 Street, New York 22, New York.

ESTABLISHED

ARGENTINA'S AEC

A National Atomic Energy Commission for Argentina has been created by the Perón government for the stated purposes of controlling official and private scientific investigations in the field and of making studies and recommendations concerning the adoption of whatever precautions are deemed necessary to protect Argentina against possible atomic attack.

APS

Authorization has been granted by the council of the American Physical Society for the establishment of a division of chemical physics in the society. Plans for the organization of the new division are being prepared by a committee headed by R. S. Mulliken.

NEW COURSE AT NYU

The graduate division of the New York University College of Engineering will institute a new course called "Physical Chemistry Applied to Electron-Tube Phenomena" during the first term of the academic year 1950-51. The course, to be given by Harold Jacobs of the thermionics branch of the Evans Signal Laboratory, will cover basic chemical physics involved in the selection of materials for electronic equipment in terms of their physical-chemical properties, as required for such problems as chemical deterioration, melting, heat radiation, cleaning, diffusion, heat-flow, adhesion, oxidation, and reduction.

NEW CURRICULUM AT LEHIGH

Lehigh University has adopted a new five-year curriculum in electrical engineering and engineering physics. Designed to attract students with particular interests in the communications fields, the new program will be supervised by Loyal V. Bewley, head of the department of electrical engineering, and Frank E. Myers, head of the department of physics. Students will be granted a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering at the end of the fourth year, and the degree of bachelor of science in engineering physics at the end of the fifth year.

MEETING TO BE HELD

X-RAY SPECTROSCOPY AND THE SOLID STATE

Announcement has been received of plans for a conference on the applications of x-ray spectroscopy to problems in solid state physics. Sponsored jointly by the University of Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and the Office of Naval Research, the conference is to take place at the University next October 23-25. Arrangements are being made cooperatively by N. F. Mott of Bristol and by the Wisconsin physics department. Visitors to the conference who will discuss European work in the field include, in addition to Professor Mott, Professor Cauchois of Paris, Dr. Kiestra of Groningen, and Dr. Sandström of Upsala. J. Slater of MIT and F. Seitz of the University of Illinois will review theoretical as-

pects of the subject. It is expected that interest will center around band widths and structures as determined by soft x-ray spectroscopy and the electronic structure of crystals exhibiting partly metallic and partly homopolar bonding. The announcement adds, however, that any descriptions of recent work will be welcome.

The formal program will be arranged to cover no more than three days, but the European visitors will remain until the end of the week for informal discussions. Most of the American experimental groups are expected to be represented at the conference and hope is expressed that as many as possible of those attending may be able to stay during the period set aside for discussions.

A final program will be available sometime in September. Correspondence should be addressed to W. W. Beeman, Department of Physics, Sterling Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

ERRATUM

CONCAVE NOT CONVEX

Arthur R. Laufer, author of the article on "Ultrasonics" which appeared in the August issue of *Physics Today*, has called our attention to an error in the caption at the bottom of page 12 of that issue. The photograph shows the focusing of an ultrasonic beam by a Lucite lens. Since the velocity of ultrasonic waves is greater in Lucite than it is in water or other liquids, it is necessary to use a negative lens in order to produce convergence of the beam. The lens shown in the photograph is a plano-concave lens and not a plano-convex lens as stated in the legend.

NORMAN R. BEERS

Norman R. Beers, former head of the meteorology group at Brookhaven National Laboratory who took over the editorship of the McGraw-Hill magazine *Nucleonics* in 1949, died June 27 of a heart ailment in the Fort Hamilton Veterans Hospital in Brooklyn. He was 38 years old. Mr. Beers, a graduate of the University of Missouri, went to England as a Rhodes Scholar in 1934 and in 1937 received a degree in astrophysics from Oxford University. After becoming editor of *Nucleonics* he continued his relationship with the Brookhaven National Laboratory as a consultant. He was forced to leave the magazine in May because of ill health.

F. T. PEIRCE

Frederick T. Peirce, who for twenty-four years was associated with the British Cotton Industry Research Association at Manchester (the Shirley Institute) as a textile physicist, died April 11 in Australia. Dr. Peirce came to this country in 1944 to aid in the development of suitable clothing for warfare in the tropics at the request of the U. S. Quartermaster Corps, and the following year accepted an offer from North Carolina State College to direct research in the School of Textiles. Shortly thereafter he suffered a stroke from which he never fully recovered. Forced to discontinue his work, he left the United States to return to his native Australia.