

WILLIAM F. MEGGERS, president of the Optical Society, is chief of the spectroscopy section of the National Bureau of Standards.



BRIAN O'BRIEN, vice president of the Optical Society, is research professor of physics and optics at the University of Rochester.



ARTHUR C. HARDY, secretary of the Optical Society, is professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



W. W. GRAEGER, treasurer of the Optical Society, is at present connected with the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company.



WALLACE R. BRODE, editor of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*, is associate director of the National Bureau of Standards.



STANLEY S. BALLARD, secretary for local sections of the Optical Society, is professor and head of the department of physics at Tufts College.



RUDOLF KINGS- LAKE, past president of the Optical Society, is head of the optical design department of the Eastman Kodak Company.



THE year 1951 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Optical Society of America (present membership approximately two thousand), a national organization devoted to the advancement of optics and designed to serve the interests of all those concerned with any of the many branches of this subject. Founded at the beginning of a period of intense activity and vigorous development in the optical sciences, the Society has from the time of its inception been concerned with all aspects of optics from fundamental research to optical engineering and manufacturing.

A local optical society was formed in Rochester, N. Y. in the winter of 1914, largely as a result of the efforts of the late P. G. Nutting, then chief physicist at the research laboratories of the Eastman Kodak Company. Early in 1916 the Rochester group formally proposed the organization of a national society and shortly thereafter addressed invitations to a number of prospective charter members. By the end of 1916, the membership of the newly organized Optical Society of America had increased from thirty to seventy-four; Dr. Nutting served as its first president.

In the ensuing years, the Society has variously served the cause of progress in optical science and technology through the publication of its journal, the regular scheduling of its meetings, and the work of its various committees. In addition, through its representatives and delegates, the Society has contributed materially to national and international standardization, especially in the fields of photometry, colorimetry, and photography.

Within the Society, six local sections carry on active programs relating to optics on a regional basis. These include the Rochester Section, a direct descendant of the original group formed at Rochester in 1914; the Detroit Section; the Niagara Frontier Section; the Ohio Valley Section; the New England Section; and the Chicago Section.

The official journal of the Society is the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*, a monthly publication in review of developments in scientific and technical optics. The first issue of the journal appeared in January, 1917 under the editorship of Hermann Kellner. Although intended originally as a bi-monthly, the journal was a casualty of World War I in the sense that dates of issue tended for a time to be uncertain and irregular. Four issues were published in 1917, none in 1918, and only two in 1919. The format of the journal was changed the following year, and under the editorship of Paul D. Foote it was issued bi-monthly until May, 1922, after which it appeared on a monthly basis.

OPTICAL SOCIETY of America

In 1922, with the cooperation of the Association of Scientific Apparatus Makers of the United States, the scope of the journal was enlarged to include papers on scientific instrumentation in general, and its title was lengthened to the *Journal of the Optical Society of America and Review of Scientific Instruments*. In addition to its regular publication of papers on optics and optical instruments, the new journal carried original articles and abstracts on instruments and methods for all fields of physical research.

In 1930, *The Review of Scientific Instruments* became a separate publication. On affiliation of the Optical Society of America with the American Institute of Physics some two years later, publication of both this journal and the *Journal of the Optical Society of America* was taken over by the latter organization, although the Optical Society of America continued to control their editorial policies. By 1937, the coverage of *The Review of Scientific Instruments* had become so broad that the Society allowed the American Institute of Physics to assume editorial responsibility for *The Review of Scientific Instruments*. The *Review* is edited at present by Gaylord P. Harnwell, and the *Journal of the Optical Society of America* by Wallace R. Brode.

The Society holds two regular meetings of three days' duration each year. The annual meeting is held during the month of October, and each fall in a different city—often one in which a local section can play host to the Society. The second meeting is ordinarily held during February or March in New York City.

The Society's special committees on technical and scientific subjects have been both active and productive through the years. Reports by these groups, generally published in the *Journal*, have dealt with progress in particular regions of optical research, with standardization of units and nomenclature, and with a wide variety of specific topics of interest to workers in the field. Among the outstanding special contributions of the Society are the publication of an English translation of Helmholtz's monumental work on *Physiological Optics*, the preparation by its Colorimetry Committee of a new book entitled *The Science of Color* (now in press), and the successful launching of *The Review of Scientific Instruments*.

Although the science of optics has been and remains closely related to the other main currents in physics, the activities of the Optical Society of America, its publications, and its technical meetings have been of interest to workers in many fields quite remote from physics. The Society has attracted biologists, mineralogists, petro-

graphers, artists, illuminating engineers, and psychologists, as well as astronomers, spectroscopists, chemists, and technicians in all fields concerned in some way with applying optical methods to their own problems.

In 1932 the Society was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York "to increase and diffuse the knowledge of optics, to promote the common interests of investigators of optical problems, of designers and users of optical apparatus of all kinds, and to encourage cooperation among them." Since its origin, the Society has offered membership to all who are interested in any branch of optics, be it research, instruction, optical or illuminating engineering, the manufacture and distribution of optical goods, or physiological and medical optics. Regular membership is available to any person "who has contributed materially to the advancement of optics"; associate membership requires only an interest in optics; and corporate membership is open to "any corporation desirous of encouraging the work of the Society".

The Optical Society has two funds to be used for the recognition and advancement of outstanding work in the field of optics. One is the Frederic Ives Medal, endowed in 1928 by Herbert E. Ives, a charter member of the Society, in honor of his father, distinguished for his pioneer contributions to color photography, photo-engraving, three-color process printing, and other branches of applied optics. The medal is awarded by the Society for outstanding work in the field of optics.

The second fund is the Adolph Lomb Memorial Award, established by the Society in 1934 in recognition of the devotion to the interests of the Society and the advancement of optics of another of its charter members, Adolph Lomb, who served as treasurer of the Society from its foundation until his death in 1932. The income of this fund "is to be expended, in the discretion of the board of directors, for purposes in keeping with the objects of the Society, and appropriate as memorials, such as the establishment of a memorial lectureship; awards for distinguished service to the Optical Society of America; awards for outstanding contributions to optical science; and the like."

Since 1940, the Society has awarded biennially an Adolph Lomb Medal to a person "under thirty years of age who shall have made a noteworthy contribution to optics."

Communications to the Society should be addressed to Professor Arthur C. Hardy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.