investigation to determine whether the proposal actually is new and what its probable merit may be. A considerable fraction of the ideas sent in drop out at this stage on the basis of prior inventorship. This is particularly true of military-related inventions—which at present constitute the bulk of those received—because of the secrecy which necessarily surrounds much of the research and development directly supported by the Department of Defense. If the Council's engineering staff recommends the idea as having possibilities, it is referred to the Council member who has the best background in the subject field concerned. If the invention finally receives Council recommendation, it is sent to the appropriate Government agency which then takes over subsequent dealings with the inventor. The council, of course, cannot give the protection which is afforded by a granted patent; only the United States Patent Office can do this. However, submission of an idea to the Council does establish a date on which the idea was disclosed to a responsible Government agency and this information may assist in establishing priority in case of dispute. All submissions are held in confidence in the Council and all possible safeguards are imposed to protect inventors' rights.

Approximately five per cent of all ideas submitted to the Council are recommended by the engineering staff for further consideration and about one per thousand makes its way through the entire sequence from submission to actual production for use. This probably is a relatively high ratio compared to that which prevails among inventions submitted "cold" to industry where one authority has said that not more than one in five thousand lasts from conception through birth to adulthood. It must be remembered, of course, that a single idea which does prove successful may easily save enough lives or money to warrant many times the cost of investigating the other 999. The latter group, incidentially, continues to include perpetual motion schemes which come in at a rate of several a month. During the war years the National Inventors' Council screened over 200,000 inventions for the armed services and a number of them played roles of some importance in the war activity. Among these were the magnetic mine detector, a tropical dry battery, and a signalling device for the use of "downed" aviators in attracting the attention of search planes.

A rather recently-established OTS activity, supplementary to the services already discussed, is one which concerns what OTS calls a Program for the Voluntary Protection of Technical Information. Under this program the OTS receives voluntary requests for advice as to whether specific technical data should be disclosed, withheld, or given limited distribution. In formulating its answer to any given query, the OTS obtains expert opinions from the interested agencies and departments of the Government.

Further information on any phase of these rather extensive programs carried on by the OTS may be obtained by writing to the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

# We hear that . .

Appointments which have recently been announced by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory are **Raymond K. Adams** from the University of Colorado, **Glen H. Burger** from the University of Alabama, **Henry S. Carden, Jr.** from the University of Louisville, **Edwin D. Gupton** from Vanderbilt University, **Ralph E. Jamison** from Carnegie Institute of Technology, and **Bernard Kahn** from Picatinny Arsenal.

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, has announced that the following physicists have been appointed assistant professors of physics: **Martin Annis** from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, **Warren B. Cheston** from the University of Rochester, and **Jonathan Townsend** from Washington University. **Robert D. Sard** and **Robert N. Varney** have been granted a year's leave of absence by the University, Professor Sard on a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Manchester, and Professor Varney to join the staff of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

**G. L. Beyer, Jr.**, has been named chief of the systems branch of the electrical evaluation division of the technical evaluation department at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. The appointments of **E. A. Hogge** and **E. H. Hurlburt** as chief of the low frequency fields research branch and of the high frequency fields research branch, respectively, in the physics research department, have also been announced. Dr. Hurlburt, who came to NOL from the National Bureau of Standards, has been serving as acting chief of the branch he now heads, and Dr. Hogge had been with the technical evaluation department before receiving the promotion.

**Hans C. Brinkman,** who has been appointed professor of theoretical physics at the University of Indonesia, was recently in the United States to attend the World Chemical Conclave. While here he gave several lectures in a graduate seminar at New York University on problems of fluid flow through suspensions of particles.

Indiana University has made the following additions to the staff of its physics department: **Keith A. Brueckner,** formerly at the Institute for Advanced Study; **Kenneth M. Watson,** formerly of the Radiation Laboratory, at the University of California; and **Volney K. Rasmussen,** as assistant professors of physics. **Dan W. Miller,** from the University of Wisconsin, will join the staff as research associate.

**Joseph Buckley,** a physics graduate of Boston College, has recently joined the staff of Arthur D. Little, Inc.

Horizons Incorporated has announced that **John T. Burwell, Jr.**, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed assistant to the director of research. **Robert E. Burket** and **Peter F. Mataich** have joined the research staff of Horizons as members of the physics department.

**Trevor H. Clark**, formerly with Federal Telecommunications Laboratories, has been named director of the division of military research and development and special consultant to the physics department of Southwest Research Institute. Other recent appointments to the Institute's physics staff are **Robert W. Annis** from the University of Illinois, **James C. Axtell** from Texas City, **William W. Bradshaw** from the University of Texas, **Charles A. Culver**, whose studies include courses at the University of Cambridge, and **John P. O'Meara** from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Paul S. Epstein**, professor of theoretical physics at the California Institute of Technology, has been named to the American Committee of the International Congress for Cultural Freedom, an anti-totalitarian organization of scientists, writers, and educators with headquarters in Paris.

**Edward Gerjuoy**, on leave from the University of Southern California, is a visiting associate professor of physics at the New York University College of Engineering during 1951–52. NYU has also appointed **Gerhard Neumann** visiting associate professor of meteorology. Dr. Neumann, on leave as lecturer for oceanography at Hamburg University, has been lecturer at the German Hydrographic Institute, and in 1938 participated in the international Gulfstream investigation on the ship "Altair".

**Fred G. Hewitt** has been awarded an industrial research fellowship at Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology. The fellowship involves graduate work at the Institute and industrial research at the Foundation, each on a half-time basis, leading to a master of science degree in physics. **Leonard Reiffel**, a member of the Foundation's physics staff and formerly physicist at the University of Chicago's Institute for Nuclear Studies, has been named supervisor of nucleonics, a branch of the Foundation engaged in studying cosmic ray physics, neutron physics, radiation detection devices, and radiography.

**Victor S. Hicks**, formerly in charge of the x-ray research laboratory at Ansco, has been appointed chief physicist of Tracerlab, Inc., in Boston. **Wendell C. Peacock**, who was one of the original founders of Tracerlab in 1946, has been elected vice president and technical director and a member of the board of directors.

**Lloyd R. Jackson**, known particularly for his work on the engineering properties of materials, has been named an assistant director of Battelle Institute, Columbus, Ohio, where he will handle research coordination. Other members of the Institute's research staff who have been promoted to supervisory positions are **Horace J. Grover**, who has been named supervisor of research on fatigue and structural analysis; **Charles F. Lucks**, who will supervise the instrument division; **Henry A. Saller**, supervisor of research on special metallurgical materials; and **Arthur D. Schwope**, supervisor of research in mechanical metallurgy. **Howard Russell**, chief physicist and assistant director who has guided Battelle's research for the atomic energy program since 1942, has recently received Denver University's Alumni Award "for distinguished service".

**Henry L. Levinstein** has been promoted to associate professor and **Kurt Sitte** to full professor in the physics department of Syracuse University. Dr. Levinstein, a solid state physicist, recently spent a month visiting various research centers in Great Britain at the request of the United States Air Force. Dr. Sitte, who specializes in cosmic ray research, was formerly associated with the Universities of Prague, Czechoslovakia and Manchester, England.

**M. Eugene Merchant**, senior research physicist with the Cincinnati Milling Machine Company, has recently been promoted to the position of assistant director of research.

**Konstantin Pestrecov**, head of the photographic department of Bausch & Lomb Optical Company's Scientific Bureau, has been awarded a fellowship in the Photographic Society of America in recognition of his "numerous contributions to the advancement of photography in the scientific, technical, and educational fields". A leading U. S. designer of aerial camera and motion picture lenses, Dr. Pestrecov was formerly a physicist at Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and a nuclear physicist at Columbia University's cyclotron laboratory.

**John C. Slater**, head of the department of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed Harry B. Higgins Professor of the Solid State, a professorship recently set up at MIT under a grant from the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

**Newbern Smith**, chief of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards, has been named the recipient of the Institute of Radio Engineers' 1952 Harry Diamond Memorial Award, presented annually to a person in government service who has made outstanding contributions to the field of radio or electronics as evidenced by publication in professional society journals.

**H. U. Sverdrup**, director of the Norwegian Polar Institute, Oslo, has been awarded the thirteenth William Bowie Medal of the American Geophysical Union, for outstanding contributions in the advancement of cooperative research in geophysics. At present Dr. Sverdrup is directing the Swedish-Norwegian-British expedition in the Antarctic.

**LeRoy D. Weld**, professor emeritus of physics at Coe College, has recently accepted a position as full-time editor for physics and mathematics with the G. & C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Massachusetts.

**Rolf G. Winter** of the Carnegie Institute of Technology has been appointed instructor in the physics department of Western Reserve University.