

As closing item of the conference program, a general discussion of the present status of research in the field of imperfections and in the field of solids in general was introduced by F. Seitz, who compared research in the pure, in the applied, and in the intermediate regions, and who appealed for more effort directed at answering basic, elementary phenomena. The following discussion was very animated and disclosed a wide range of opinions as to which, exactly, might be called the most important objectives. As it is often the case, the main argument was between the theoretical physicists, desiring experiments which would be suitable for a theoretical analysis, and experimental research men who wanted better theoretical guidance as to what experiments may lead to clarification of elementary or basic concepts. The lack of quantitative theoretical predictions was cited as one of the problems facing both the theoretician and the experimentalist.

Besides the numerous American scientists, the conference was attended by Sir Lawrence Bragg and E. Owon of Cambridge, England, the latter recently of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; B. Chalmers of the University of Toronto; A. Guinier and Miss Y. Cauchois of Paris. Each participated very actively in the discussion, their often different viewpoints adding considerably to the interest of the meeting.

The organizational committee of the Pocono Manor Conference consisted of W. Shockley (chairman), J. H. Hollomon, F. Seitz, R. C. Gibbs as chairman of the Division of Physical and Mathematical Sciences of the National Research Council, and the undersigned as chairman of the Committee on Solid State within the Division. The committee was aided by the technical assistance of J. S. Roros, and the conference itself was made possible through the financial support of the Office of Naval Research, in keeping with its farsighted policy towards science.

The conference closed with a feeling that the smooth organization and benevolent weather contributed towards a perfect conference on an "imperfect" subject. Afterwards, a number of those attending stayed on to contemplate the less theoretical but perhaps also more beautiful perfection of the sunny outdoors.

R. Smoluchowski

MEETINGS TO BE HELD

AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

Pittsburgh will be the scene of the 304th meeting of the American Physical Society on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of March. Two sections of the Society, the division of solid state physics and the newly created division of chemical physics, are planning to hold several symposia during the meeting. The chemical physics symposia reportedly will stress statistical mechanics, valence theory, and internal rotation. A joint symposium has been scheduled for the morning of March 8th.

BRITISH PHYSICAL SOCIETY

Heralded as unique in showing side by side the work of British research and development work from industrial, government, and academic laboratories, the thirty-fifth exhibition of scientific instruments and apparatus, held annually by the Physical Society of Great Britain, will take place from April 6th to 11th in London. A handbook of the exhibition, containing full descriptions of all exhibits, will be obtainable in early March from the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S. W. 7.

Calendar of events

February

- 1-3 American Physical Society, New York City
- 1-3 American Association of Physics Teachers, New York City
- 6 Society for Applied Spectroscopy, New York City
- 10 American Association of Physics Teachers (Oregon Section), Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon
- 15-19 American Crystallographic Association, Washington, D. C.
- 19-22 Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, New York City
- 19-22 American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, St. Louis, Missouri
- 21-24 American Society of Civil Engineers, Houston, Texas
- 23-24 American Mathematical Society, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 24 American Mathematical Society, New York City
- 28 Inter-Society Color Council (Annual Meeting), Washington, D. C.

March

- 1-3 Optical Society of America, Washington, D. C.
- 5-7 Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 5-9 American Society for Testing Materials, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 6 Society for Applied Spectroscopy, New York City
- 8-10 American Physical Society, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 11-14 American Institute of Chemical Engineers, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
- 13-15 The Institute of Metals (Annual General Meeting), London, England
- 13-16 National Association of Corrosion Engineers, New York City
- 16 Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, Sixth Annual Flight Propulsion Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio
- 19-23 Institute of Radio Engineers, New York City
- 19-23 American Society for Metals, Oakland, California

April

- 1-5 American Chemical Society (119th Annual Meeting), Boston, Massachusetts
- 2-5 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Atlanta, Georgia
- 3 Society for Applied Spectroscopy, New York City
- 5-7 Southeastern Section, American Physical Society, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 6-11 The Physical Society of Great Britain, 35th Annual Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus, London, England
- 8-12 American Chemical Society (119th National Meeting), Cleveland, Ohio
- 14 Chesapeake Section, American Association of Physics Teachers, Newark, Delaware
- 16-18 U.S.A. National Committee of the International Scientific Radio Union (URSI) and the Professional Group on Antennas and Wave Propagation of the Institute of Radio Engineers (Regular Spring Meeting), Washington, D. C.
- 18-20 Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (Coating Division), Boston, Massachusetts
- 19-21 American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 20-21 American Mathematical Society, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 22-26 American Ceramic Society, Inc., Chicago, Illinois
- 23-25 National Academy of Sciences, Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C.
- 23-26 Society of Exploration Geophysicists joint meeting with American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, St. Louis, Missouri
- 26-28 American Physical Society, Washington, D. C.
- 26-28 American Physical Society, Division of High-Polymer Physics, Washington, D. C.
- 27-28 American Mathematical Society, New York City
- 27-28 American Mathematical Society, Chicago, Illinois
- 28 American Mathematical Society, Stanford, California
- 30-2 American Geophysical Union, Washington, D. C.
- 30-4 Materials Handling Conference and National Materials Handling Exposition, sponsored by American Material Handling Society and Material Handling Institute, respectively. International Amphitheatre, Chicago, Illinois
- 30-4 Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, New York City

May

- 1 Society for Applied Spectroscopy, New York City
- 2-3 American Meteorological Society, Washington, D. C.
- 4-5 5th South American Congress of Chemistry, Lima, Peru
- 10-12 Acoustical Society of America, Washington, D. C.
- 13-16 American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Kansas City, Missouri
- 14-15 Horological Institute of America, Washington, D. C.
- 16-18 Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, Washington, D. C.
- 22-23 National Conference on Weights and Measures, Washington, D. C.