

and furnishings in school laboratories was published in 1927 and is now out of print.

Scientific manpower, currently the subject of much debate, is being looked at simultaneously from several different directions and while the impetus comes immediately from the needs for increased technical production, the results are expected to have considerable long-term value.

In late February, plans were announced for a survey of available scientific personnel and research equipment at all American educational institutions under a program to be carried out by the Engineering College Research Council, a unit of the American Society for Engineering Education, with the cooperation of the Defense Department's Research and Development Board. Planned as a relatively short-term project, the survey covers a broad list of engineering and scientific fields, including aeronautical engineering, astronomy, chemistry, electrical engineering, electronics, geology, mathematics, metallurgical engineering, meteorology, oceanography, physics, psychology, and many other categories. A more general inventory of the facilities of educational institutions is being collected by the Office of Education. Information concerning existing physical and human resources is being gathered from more than one thousand institutions of higher learning.

As most physicists are probably aware, the nation-wide registration of scientists by the U. S. Office of Education under a program sponsored by the National Security Resources Board has been in process for some time. With the help of the National Research Council, the American Institute of Physics, and the American Chemical Society, questionnaires have been mailed to physicists, chemists, and certain other scientists. As a part of this registration program also, the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the American Geological Institute have circularized people in their respective fields.

The Office of Naval Research has for the past several years been conducting a survey of specialized personnel under projects carried out by the National Research Council, the publishers of *American Men of Science*, and several of the scientific societies. The most complete statistical information to be provided in these studies has concerned science and engineering personnel, for the purpose was not only to provide a register of names but also to give statistical details about the individual and the factors which may have influenced his choice of profession. Also being surveyed, however, is the state of available manpower in the social sciences and humanities. It is expected that this study will continue for several more years. Some parts of the survey have been reported in previous issues of *Physics Today* and it is hoped that as further information becomes available it can also be made public.

The foregoing gives only a sampling of the existing and contemplated surveys designed to explore the nation's actual and potential reservoirs of human resources. Additional studies are being made by a number of government agencies, professional organizations, and universities. The resulting statistics, when and if they can be properly analyzed and related, should provide a very comprehensive picture of the nation's trained potential and may prove significant in future efforts to enlarge these reservoirs.

AFFILIATED

SIGMA PI SIGMA JOINS AIP

Sigma Pi Sigma, national physics honor society, formally joined the American Institute of Physics as an affiliated so-

ciety last March 17th when the governing board of the Institute unanimously approved a Sigma Pi Sigma request for affiliation.

Founded in 1921 as a local honor organization at Davidson College in North Carolina by nine physics students and faculty members who sensed a need for an organization which would bring physicists into closer association, the original society proved so successful that a movement for a larger organization was launched in 1925. After two years of restricted growth, a more extended period of expansion began until now the society is national in scope and influence, with seventy-seven chapters well distributed among colleges and universities in the country. The total membership is in the neighborhood of nine thousand. The society's chapters are restricted to colleges and universities of recognized standing which offer a strong major in physics. Physics students and a few others in closely related fields are accepted as members upon attaining "high scholarship standing, professional merit, and academic distinction".

In addition to its affiliation with the Institute of Physics, Sigma Pi Sigma is a member of the American Association of College Honor Societies and is one of the "Associated Societies" in Section B of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. M. H. Trytten, director of the National Research Council's Office of Scientific Personnel, is the society's president. Other officers are Vincent E. Parker of the Louisiana State University, vice-president, and Marsh W. White of the Pennsylvania State College, executive secretary.

The latest chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma was formed at Hofstra College in Hempstead, Long Island, where a charter group of fifty students and faculty and alumni members held installation ceremonies on March 17th. Dr. White conducted the ceremonies, and the installation officers included Dr. Trytten, Donald E. Kirkpatrick of Queens College, and J. H. Rohrbaugh of New York University. Both the BA in physics and BS in applied physics, together with work leading to the MA, are offered in the Hofstra physics department, which is headed by James B. Kelley. Jack E. Brooks was selected as the chapter advisor.

COMPLETED

THE RADIATION LABORATORY SERIES

March 22nd marked the publication date of the twenty-seventh and final volume of the Radiation Laboratory Series, a collection of technical books tracing the wartime record of radar work at the Radiation Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Published by the McGraw-Hill Book Company under contract with MIT, the Series was started in 1947 and totals more than 16,000 pages. McGraw-Hill reports that over 150,000 copies of the published volumes have been sold to date. Louis Ridenour, dean of the University of Illinois Graduate School, served as editor-in-chief of the Series, and a large number of research workers who were associated with the radar project carried on at MIT during World War II participated as authors. Publication of the Series, which Dean Ridenour describes as a "compendium of basic information on microwave radar and modern electronics", has brought a net saving of approximately \$260,000 to the Government, according to an estimate of the McGraw-Hill Company, as a collection of official technical reports. In addition, the publishers have announced paying over \$80,000 into the U. S. Treasury as royalty on sales here and abroad.