

the majority of the department chairs did not feel that a serious problem had yet developed in their own physics department, they were cautious about the future and sensitive to student complaints. . . . When English language difficulties arose, a variety of remedial actions were turned to and teaching assistants were, at least temporarily, reassigned to tasks that did not entail contact with undergraduates. There was recognition, however, that this was only a partial solution. As the number and proportion of non-native-English-speaking graduate students increased, it would become more and more difficult to find alternative tasks for them."

Individual copies of the report, "Foreign Teaching Assistants in Physics Departments," are available free of charge from the Education and Employment Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

ROYAL SOCIETY AND SOVIET ACADEMY REACH AGREEMENT

The Royal Society of London and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR have signed a new agreement that may bring about as much as a doubling of exchanges between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union in the coming years. The agreement was signed in mid-November during a visit to England of a delegation from the Soviet Academy headed by Academy President Guri I. Marchuk. During the visit Marchuk was received by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Under the agreement, representatives of the Royal Society and the Soviet Academy will meet every two years, alternating between the two countries. Financing for individual exchanges is to be increased 50% immediately, and the countries are to work during the next year toward an additional 50% increase.

MENDELSON IS PRESIDENT OF RHEOLOGY SOCIETY

Robert A. Mendelson, Monsanto Science Fellow at the Monsanto Chemical Company laboratories in Springfield, Massachusetts, has taken office as vice president of the Society of Rheology. He will be vice president for two years, with the expectation that he will then be elected president at the end of 1989, when John M.



Robert A. Mendelson

Dealy's term expires. Dealy, a professor of chemical engineering at McGill University and formerly the vice president of the Society of Rheology, was elected president in the recent election.

Mendelson earned his BS in chemistry in 1952 and his PhD in physical chemistry in 1956 at Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University). He joined Monsanto in 1956 and has done research on the molecular characterization of polymers, principally on the melt rheological behavior of various polymeric systems, with special emphasis on structure-rheology relations and on processing behavior. Most recently he has studied the behavior of multiphase polymer blends.

Edward A. Collins of MITECH Corporation, Donald G. Baird of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, and Arthur B. Metzner of the University of Delaware were reelected treasurer, secretary and editor, respectively. Newly elected additional members of the executive committee are Joe D. Goddard of the University of Southern California and Gregory B. McKenna of the National Bureau of Standards. Robert F. Landel of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory rejoins the executive committee as past president.

MOUNT WILSON TELESCOPE TO BE RECOMMISSIONED

The trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington have approved a plan to recommission the 100-inch Hooker telescope at the Mount Wilson Observatory under the auspices of a new non-profit corporation called the Mount Wilson Institute. Carne-

gie will transfer title to the observatory's buildings, equipment and other property, contingent upon the institute's raising adequate funds, approval by the US Forest Service—which owns the land where the observatory is located—and negotiation of satisfactory arrangements regarding Carnegie's rights of reversion.

The Hooker telescope was mothballed in June 1985, when Carnegie decided to concentrate its resources on its observatory at Las Campanas in Chile and its other instruments on Mount Wilson. These include two solar telescopes and a 60-inch stellar telescope. The Carnegie Institution's complex also provides a home for an interferometer operated by Harvard-Smithsonian. Many astronomers and astrophysicists have complained that the Hooker telescope has not exhausted its useful life and that it deserves to be kept operational at a time when astronomy suffers from a worldwide shortage of viewing time. Various plans were proposed to reopen the facility; in one such scheme the observatory was to have made a series of photographs for educational use during the appearance of Halley's Comet two years ago.

The current plan calls for the Mount Wilson complex to be used primarily for research but also for education and recreation. Trustees of the new institute include representatives of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and the county's Museum of Natural History.

CHATURVEDI IS OUTSTANDING SPS CHAPTER ADVISER

The Society of Physics Students has honored Ram P. Chaturvedi of the State University of New York College, Cortland, as its outstanding SPS chapter adviser of 1987. The award consists of a certificate, a citation and a donation of \$500 to the recipient's institution to support a public talk by a distinguished lecturer.

Chaturvedi has served as chapter adviser at SUNY Cortland since 1973. A native of India, he earned a BSc in 1953 and an MSc in 1955 at Agra University and a PhD at the University of British Columbia in 1963. He taught at Agra University from 1955 to 1959 and at Panjab University from 1963 to 1964. He joined the faculty at the State University of New York, Buffalo, in 1964, and moved to State University College, Cortland, in 1965. He became a full professor in 1970. ■