of the Calculus. In addition to its service features, it has been proposed that the center should carry on a program of research on questions relating to the use and improvement of computing devices and methods. Other aspects of the program, according to the convention, will involve the study of such problems in pure science as concern computation, the promotion of collaborative and cooperative efforts among computation institutes throughout the world, the publication and distribution of research results, and the implementation of a plan for the education and advanced training of specialists in the field of computation. In carrying out these functions, it is stated, the center will endeavor primarily to meet the needs of its member states, and especially the needs of those which may have limited resources.

In terms of organization, the proposed center will comprise a general assembly, an executive council, and a scientific and administrative staff, headed by a director. The general assembly, according to the convention, shall consist of one representative preferably with scientific qualifications, of each member state of the center, and of a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Unesco). The executive council will consist of six persons elected by the general assembly from candidates presented by the member states and will be responsible for carrying out the program for the computation center adopted by the assembly. The director, to be appointed by the assembly, will be responsible for appointing scientific and administrative staff members of the center, and in this connection it is noted that wherever feasible and possible, staff appointments will be made on a wide geographical basis.

Formation of the European nuclear physics laboratory was discussed in Paris during the week of December 17th at a special conference attended by representatives of a number of European nations. A working party was set up at that time to formulate an agreement whereby an international planning board will be formed in Geneva, Switzerland, to supervise initial stages of the project, and another meeting of the delegates was scheduled in Geneva on February 10th to approve the draft agreement.

Much of the enthusiasm shown by Europeans for the proposed laboratory seems to concern the possibility of building a particle accelerator of the bevatron type —sufficiently large, in other words, to provide energies of several billion electron volts. Suggestions have been advanced that it be a proton accelerator of at least 3 Bev and possibly up to 6 Bev. It has been pointed out that the cost of constructing such a machine would be considerably greater than any single European country is in a position to consider within the foreseeable future. At the same time, it has been indicated, there is a growing tendency among scientists abroad to consider the present American monopoly of high voltage accelerating equipment a threat to European scientific progress. While the research done by European physicists has been outstanding in both qualitative and quantitative terms, regions of research have evolved in which high voltage equipment is necessary. Lacking adequate accelerators in Europe, the European physicist must depend upon the hospitality of American laboratories and the availability of their equipment to carry on his research. The danger, under such circumstances, that normal international interchange of scientists would be replaced by a one-way flow of specialists from Europe to the United States has become a matter of serious concern to a number of European scientific institutions, it is suggested, and the only practical solution now apparent seems to require a pooling of the scientific, industrial, and financial resources of several European nations in order to provide an international research center properly equipped with modern research instruments.

Initially, however, it is anticipated that a plan will be worked out for research on a European basis at the Institute of Theoretical Physics in Copenhagen and perhaps in other laboratories in Denmark and Great Britain. The 400 Mev synchrocyclotron now under construction at the University of Liverpool is reportedly to be made available by the British for the international research project, and it has been indicated that this accelerator will be ready for operation later in 1952.

The location of the laboratory has not been decided upon, although it has been reported that Switzerland has already offered Geneva as the site, and that in other quarters a preference has been expressed for establishing the center in Copenhagen. Factors which have been declared important in choosing the site include favorable transportation facilities, the availability of sufficient manpower of all levels of skill necessary for constructing and operating the accelerator and auxiliary apparatus, the availability of low-cost electric power, the proximity of some important university, and a geographical location close to various cultural areas. The site possessing the best combination of these conditions will presumably be chosen.

AIP Governing Board

New Members Elected

Elections to the governing board of the American Institute of Physics were made known at the annual corporate meeting of the Institute on February 16, as follows: Karl K. Darrow, Bell Telephone Laboratories physicist; G. J. Dienes, physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory; Hugh S. Knowles, president and director of research of Industrial Research Products; C. C. Lauritsen, professor of physics at California Institute of Technology; William F. Meggers, chief of the spectroscopy section of the National Bureau of Standards; George B. Pegram, vice president emeritus and special advisor to the president of Columbia University (re-elected); R. M. Sutton, professor of physics at Haverford College; and M. W. Zemansky, professor of physics at City College of New York. Members whose terms of office have expired are: J. W. Beams, C. Paul Boner, W. R. Brode, W. F. Fair, Jr.,

Paul Kirkpatrick, J. R. Oppenheimer, and Harold K. Schilling.

APS and AAPT Officers

Van Vleck and Webb are New Presidents

The terms of office of the presidents for the past year of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers came to a close with the joint winter meeting of the two organizations in New York City, which took place from Thursday, January 31, to Saturday, February 2. C. C. Lauritsen, retiring president of the Physical Society, introduced his successor, J. H. Van Vleck, to those attending the joint banquet of the societies on Friday evening, after which Mark Zemansky, retiring president of the AAPT, welcomed William S. Webb as the association's new president. Professor Van Vleck is chairman of the physics department at Harvard University, while Professor Webb heads the University of Kentucky physics department.

It was also announced that Enrico Fermi, professor of physics at the University of Chicago, is the new vice president (and therefore president-elect) of the APS. R. B. Brode, professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley, and W. V. Houston, president of the Rice Institute, were elected to the Council of the Physical Society, replacing Frederick Seitz and Louis A. Turner, whose terms had expired.

Paul E. Klopsteg, former treasurer of the Association of Physics Teachers, succeeds Professor Webb as vice president, thus bringing to the organization's highest offices the two men who were largely responsible for the founding of the AAPT some twenty-one years ago. Professor Klopsteg, director of research at the Technological Institute of Northwestern University, is succeeded as AAPT treasurer by F. W. Sears, professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Walter C. Michels, professor of physics at Bryn Mawr College, was elected to serve on the Association's executive committee.

J. H. Van Vleck, chairman of the department of physics at Harvard University, who has been named to succeed C. C. Lauritsen as president of the American Physical Society.

William S. Webb, head of the physics department at the University of Kentucky, has succeeded Mark Zemansky as president of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

An APS Section Disbands

Metropolitan Group Votes to Discontinue

One of the five Regional Sections of the American Physical Society, the Metropolitan Section, announced in late January that by the unanimous vote of its executive committee it had decided to request the disbanding of the Section by the APS Council. This action was taken, according to Yardley Beers, chairman of the Metropolitan Section, because of a general lack of interest exhibited by the membership in the Section's affairs. In view of the small attendance at Section meetings held during 1950–51 the executive committee decided to poll the members in the hope of uncovering some new basis for continuation of the Section, but returns to a questionnaire circulated in 1951 indicated to the committee that no useful purpose would be served in continuing. Although other Regional Sections of the APS have been successful in holding meetings, it was observed, conditions in the New York area are in some respects unusual. The strong competition for audiences among the many scientific and other conferences and colloquia held in New York, it was suggested, together with the time-consuming travel associated with city life, contributed heavily to the Section's difficulties. It was recognized that many people inevitably feel compelled to restrict their attendance at meetings to those which deal with their fields of direct interest and to look to their immediate neighborhoods for their social life. This condition is in no way unique to the Metropolitan Section, it was pointed out, since the situation has affected many other organizations in New York. The committee, in asking that the Section be disbanded, also requested that the funds belonging to the Metropolitan Section be held in trust by the APS for a period of five years from the date of the Council's action. If within that period there should be a revival of the Section, the funds are to be made available to the revived Section for its work; otherwise they are to become the property of the Society. It was also decided that an open letter be sent to the two hundred members of the Section informing them of the action.

APS Division Officers Named

Huggins Chairman of High-Polymer Group

The Division of High-Polymer Physics of the American Physical Society has announced that Maurice L. Huggins of the Eastman Kodak research laboratories has been elected Division chairman for 1952. Raymond F. Boyer of the Dow Chemical Company has been named vice chairman and L. A. Wood, a former chairman of the Division, has been elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee. W. J. Lyons was re-elected secretary-treasurer. The Division is holding its tenth meeting at Columbus, Ohio, March 20–22 during the APS meeting. Two symposia relating to the physics of high polymers, along with three sessions for contributed papers, have been arranged by the program committee, headed by Rolf Buchdahl.