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## 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.