

Meetings

Optical Society

Spring Meeting in New York

The program of the 1952 Spring Meeting of the Optical Society of America, which was held from March 20th to 22nd at the Hotel Statler in New York City, included four invited papers and more than fifty contributed papers arranged in eight sessions. Most of the sessions were devoted to particular subjects with considerable emphasis being placed during the meeting on spectroscopy, optical design, infrared instrumentation, photography, vision, and crystals and thin films.

The meeting was opened on the morning of March 20th with a program of three invited papers. E. F. Lowry (Sylvania Products Inc.) presented a paper on electroluminescence; the paper of M. J. Buerger (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) was entitled "Two-Wavelength-Microscope"; and Walter Wrigley (also of MIT) discussed the relationship between feedback procedures and optical instrumentation.

The Adolph Lomb Memorial lecture for 1952 was given by W. D. Wright, Professor of Technical Optics at the Imperial College, London. Professor Wright discussed the character of tritanopia, a rare form of color vision defect involving a small color field confusion. Occasional cases of tritanopia have been discovered from time to time in the past, but the extreme rarity of this type of color vision defect has made it difficult to obtain reliable information concerning its characteristics. With the help of a recent article in the London *Picture Post* Professor Wright has been able to locate a number of tritanopes in Great Britain and as a result has been able to accumulate far more data on the subject than had previously existed. Although this investigation is still in progress, a few preliminary conclusions were suggested. For one thing the British study seems to indicate that tritanopia is somewhat more common than heretofore had been supposed. Instead of perhaps one case in a million it now seems that the defect may occur thirty or so times as frequently. Even so the occurrence remains very low. It also had been supposed that tritanopia might be mainly a pathological defect but Professor Wright reported that his results seem to indicate just the opposite. During the three months he spent in the United States this year, Professor Wright served as a "travelling lecturer" for the Optical Society, visiting many laboratories and campuses in the northeastern section of the country and addressing the various local sections of the Society.

An informal banquet was held on the evening of March 21, following which E. U. Condon, director of research at Corning Glass Works, presented an address on the subject of "Glass".

Solid State Physics

APS Division Elects New Officers

The Annual Meeting of the Division of Solid State Physics was held in conjunction with the Columbia Meeting of the American Physical Society March 20, 21, 22, 1952, on the Ohio State University campus. Five sessions, totaling 26 invited papers, were arranged by the Division on the general topics of low temperature studies, recent theoretical developments, radiation effects in solids, magnetic resonance, and second order phase changes. There were also about 70 contributed papers in the field of solid state physics. All sessions were exceedingly well attended, this meeting being the largest APS March meeting to date. At the business meeting it was announced that officers of the Division for the coming year will be: Harvey Brooks, chairman; Cyril S. Smith, vice-chairman; and Charles S. Smith, secretary-treasurer.

Exploration Geophysicists

Annual Meeting Held in Los Angeles

The twenty-first anniversary of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists was celebrated during the period from March 24 to 27 when the SEG held its annual meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Meeting jointly with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, the SEG presented a total of forty technical papers on geophysical methods of locating petroleum and minerals. In his presidential address, Sigmund Hammer, retiring president, reviewed the present position of geophysical prospecting in the mineral industries, with emphasis upon the outstanding advances that have been made in discovering new oil resources by combined geophysical and geological methods. The Society has announced the installation of new officers for the 1952-53 year. Curtis H. Johnson, assistant chief geophysicist for General Petroleum Corporation, Los Angeles, is president; Roy L. Lay, manager of the geophysical division of the Texas Company, Houston, is vice president; and Carl L. Bryan, consulting geophysicist from Shreveport, is secretary-treasurer.

Pittsburgh Conference

On Medium Energy Nuclear Physics

Plans have been announced for a three-day conference on medium energy nuclear physics at the University of Pittsburgh on June 5, 6, and 7. The conference program will be limited to studies of nuclei with $A > 4$, using projectiles accelerated in electrostatic generators or conventional cyclotrons. Further information can be obtained from Dr. D. Halliday, Head of the Depart-