

Meetings

IUPAP Executive Committee

June Meeting in Paris Reported

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics met in Paris on June 6-7, 1952. The Union is the organization which coordinates international activities in physics, arranges international conferences, and so on. Its president is N. F. Mott, of England, who recently succeeded the late H. A. Kramers of Holland. The secretary is P. Fleury, of France; other members of the executive committee who attended are M. Siegbahn of Sweden, a past president, and E. Amaldi of Italy, G. Borelius of Sweden, P. Huber of Switzerland, and J. C. Slater of the United States. Several members were not present, including J. A. Wheeler of the United States. Several guests were present from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the International Council of Scientific Unions, and other organizations.

The main business of the meeting was to go over the plans for future international conferences. The principal forthcoming conferences sponsored by the Union are the following.

In Amsterdam, September 1-6, 1952, a conference on beta and gamma ray radioactivity; secretary, Dr. J. de Boer, Institute for Theoretical Physics, Roetersstraat 1A, Amsterdam.

At Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, September 29 to October 1, 1952, a conference on structure and properties of solid surfaces; secretary, Dr. C. S. Smith, Institute for the Study of Metals, Chicago 37, Illinois.

In Madrid, during the first half of April, 1953, a conference on physiological optics, the title being Vision in its Relation to Instrumental Optics, organized by the Instituto de Optica "Daza de Valdès" (Serrano 121, Madrid), arranged by Professor J. M. Otero Navascues, on the occasion of the semicentennial of the Spanish Society of Physics and Chemistry.

In Holland, June 1-7, 1953, an international congress on electroacoustics and international symposium on the sound insulation of light-weight structures, organized by the Netherlands Acoustical Society, under the auspices of the Commission on Acoustics of the International Union of Physics. Meetings will be held in Delft, Eindhoven, and Hilversum. Inquiries should be made to the secretary of the congress, Mr. P. A. de Lange, Laboratorium voor Technische Physica, Mijnbouwplein 11, Delft, Holland.

In Bagnères de Bigorre, France, early in July, 1953, a conference on cosmic rays, organized by Professor L. Leprince-Ringuet, 17 rue Descartes, Paris 5.

In Kyoto, Japan, September 14-24, 1953, a conference on theoretical physics, arranged by the Science Council of Japan, and planned by Professor M. Kotani of the University of Tokyo, and various others. This will be a conference of considerable magnitude, including theoretical physicists from many countries, with discussions of field theory and theory of elementary particles, statistical mechanics and low temperature physics, and solid state physics and molecular physics. As the first international conference on physics held in Japan since the War, it will be supported strongly by Japanese sources, by the Union, by Unesco, and also by other sources, including the Rockefeller Foundation.

In general, attendance at all these conferences is by invitation only. On the other hand, it may well be that some Americans who are not on the invitation list may be planning to be in the neighborhood of one of the conferences, and would be glad to receive an invitation. In such a case it is always appropriate for him to let the organizers know of his plans, and ask if he could be invited; though it must be realized that in some cases the size of the conference is very strictly limited, and additional invitations are not practicable.

The planning for further conferences has not progressed quite as far as for those mentioned above. A low temperature conference is being planned, probably for December, 1953, at Rice Institute in Houston, Texas, organized by Professor C. F. Squire and others, in collaboration with Professor F. Simon of Oxford, and others.

In July, 1954, the next General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics will be held in London at the invitation of the Royal Society. This General Assembly, which is a business meeting for official delegates, will be followed by two conferences: one on the solid-state in Bristol, another on experimental nuclear physics in Glasgow. General arrangements for these meetings are being made by Professor N. F. Mott, of Bristol. Also in July, 1954, plans are tentatively being made for a spectroscopic conference in Lund, Sweden, in connection with a Rydberg centenary.

In addition to the conferences of the Union, several of its commissions meet at various times. Thus the Joint Commission on Spectroscopy will meet in Rome in September, 1952, in connection with the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union. Several of the other commissions will meet in connection with conferences which have been already described.

The Executive Committee also generally meets in connection with one or another conference, and the June meeting in Paris was in connection with a conference on Change of Phase, organized by the French Society of Physical Chemistry. This was a large and interesting meeting, dealing with statistical mechanics of change of phase, lambda points, order-disorder problems, and such topics.

One additional matter of general interest, besides that of future conferences, came up at the June meeting: the question of methods of following the Russian scientific literature. Professor Mott, and the Commission on Publications of the Union, have been looking into the possibility of having an annual set of review articles, summarizing the Russian literature of the preceding year in a number of important fields, and published in some appropriate way. Plans for this review are still in an early stage, but it seems possible that the *Nuovo Cimento* might be interested in publishing it as a supplement. Publication would be in English and French. The Executive Committee authorized Professor Mott and the Commission on Publications to proceed with plans for this annual review.

The Union of Physics has in each country a National Committee, which handles the relations of that country with the Union. The officers of the U. S. National Committee are J. C. Slater, chairman, R. B. Brode, vice-chairman, and H. A. Barton, secretary. Other members are S. S. Ballard, R. H. Bolt, F. H. Crawford, K. K. Darrow, R. C. Gibbs, W. V. Houston, H. H. Nielsen, and J. A. Wheeler.

J. C. Slater

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

APS at Denver

Summer Meeting was the 314th

Well over three hundred members of the American Physical Society took part in the 1952 Summer Meeting which was held this year in Denver from June 30 to July 3. The various sessions were held at two hotels (the Shirley-Savoy and the Cosmopolitan) and on the campus of the University of Denver. The program for the first two days included more than one hundred contributed papers divided among nine sessions, and fourteen invited papers were presented. The two remaining days of the meeting were given over largely to a symposium on upper atmospheric physics and three panel discussions, two of which dealt with cosmic-ray research and the third with a continuation of the symposium topics. The Society's banquet, with APS Vice President Enrico Fermi presiding, was held on the evening of July 1st in the Student Union of the University of Denver where those attending were welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Allot of Colorado and by Mayor Newton of Denver. Manuel Sandoval Vallarta of the University of Mexico, who gave an account of physics in Mexico following the banquet, took that occasion to extend an invitation to the Society to meet in Mexico City in June 1955.

J. A. Van Allen of Iowa State University presided at the symposium on temperature, composition, and motions of the upper atmosphere and also presented one of the session's five papers. The remaining four symposium papers were given by L. A. Manning of Stanford University, A. G. McNish of the National Bureau of Standards, H. Newell, Jr. of the Naval Research Laboratory, and L. M. Jones of the University of Michi-

gan. The related panel discussion (on composition, winds, pressures, and temperatures of the upper atmosphere) was led by J. Kaplan of the University of California at Los Angeles, the Society's local secretary for the West Coast. Enrico Fermi of the University of Chicago and Bruno Rossi of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were the discussion leaders respectively for the panel on cosmic-ray components and for that on new unstable particles found in the cosmic radiation.

The panel discussions were well attended and favorably received, according to all reports, and it is expected that more sessions of this nature will be scheduled for future meetings of the society. Although comparable discussions were held in 1946 during the September meeting of the APS in New York City, such sessions have been very infrequent.

The following invited papers were presented during the Denver meeting: The Theory of Infrared Radiation in the Atmosphere (W. M. Elsasser, University of Utah); Experiments on Penetrating Cosmic-Ray Showers (V. H. Regener, University of New Mexico); Thunderstorm-Precipitation Growth and Electrical-Charge Generations (S. E. Reynolds, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology); A Review of Tropospheric Propagation Data at Distances Far Beyond the Horizon (G. R. Chambers, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder); Recent Developments in the Theory of Electromagnetic Wave Propagation through Spherically Stratified Media (J. Feinstein, NBS, Washington); The Effect of Scattering by a Turbulent Atmosphere on the Received Field Deep in the Shadow Region (H. Staras, NBS, Washington); Physics and Atomic-Bomb Tests (A. C. Graves, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory); Recent Advances in the Theory of Magnetization (R. M. Bozorth, Bell Telephone Laboratories); Noise in Electron Beams at Microwave Frequencies (D. A. Watkins, Hughes Research and Development Laboratories); The Perception of Speech by Deafened Listeners and its Relation to the Design of Hearing Aids (Harvey Fletcher, Brigham Young University); Shock-Wave Phenomena (R. J. Seeger, National Science Foundation); Measurements of Neutron Spectra Using Nuclear-Emulsion Techniques (Louis Rosen, Los Alamos); The Los Alamos Fast Reactor and its Experimental Use (D. B. Hall, Los Alamos); and Precision Measurement of the Annihilation Radiation and Decay Schemes of Tantalum 182 and Iridium 192 (H. C. Hoyt, California Institute of Technology).

Byron E. Cohn, head of the University of Denver physics department, served as chairman of the society's local committee. Professors Cohn and Kaplan were responsible for the original plans which resulted in the symposium and the three panel discussions.

The council of the American Physical Society met on the first morning of the meeting and among other items of business elected to the Society a number of new members and the following fellows: Walter Betteridge, F. W. Brown, J. H. Coon, J. G. Daunt, W. L. Davidson, F. N. Frankiel, and Elizabeth R. Graves.