

(5221), physics (4971), zoology (3084), mathematics (3071), biology (1933), geology (1864), bacteriology (1343), physiology (1155), and botany (1014). Predictions made by the graduate schools indicate that in 1953 and 1954 the proportion of doctoral degrees in chemistry and physics will probably decline. About three-fourths of the graduate-science student population are enrolled in schools granting PhD degrees in science.

A large fraction of the graduate student population received support for training as graduate assistants and graduate fellows. In 1951, about 1700 graduate assistantships and 4000 nongovernment fellowships were awarded in support of advanced training, while more than 8000 students received graduate aid under the G. I. Bill. In 1952, the number of graduate students receiving aid under the G. I. Bill was sharply reduced, and new programs such as that of the National Science Foundation are not adequate to take up the slack. In this connection, the Foundation has reported receiving a total of 3318 applications for graduate fellowships in the physical, mathematical, engineering, biological and medical sciences for the 1953-54 academic year. From this number, only 600 NSF fellows can be selected in view of the Foundation's limited budget.

## AIP Officers

### New Executive Committee Named

The Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics, at its meeting on March 14th in New York City, re-elected George R. Harrison as Chairman for 1953. Others named as members of this year's Executive Committee are Karl K. Darrow, Frederick V. Hunt, Brian O'Brien, Frederick Seitz, George B. Pegram, and Mark W. Zemansky. Dr. Pegram continues as Treasurer, Henry A. Barton as Director, and Wallace Waterfall as Secretary of the Governing Board and Executive Committee. A complete list of Governing Board members for 1953 will be found on page 3 of this issue.

## Alpha, Alpha, Alpha

### A Letter to the Editor

I was favorably impressed by Professor Gamow's suggestion (*Physics Today*, February 1953) that the names of authors in multiauthor articles appear in alphabetic order; however, I feel obligated to point out that this may lead to the practice of scientists adopting "noms de plume". This tendency would, of course, be most likely to arise in the N-Z group, but others amongst us might be swept into the maelstrom.

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## Miscellany

The homogeneous reactor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which has been operated at low power during the past year in experiments to deter-

mine nuclear characteristics, was brought up to its full design power of one thousand kilowatts of heat output on February 24th. The reactor steam was then switched to a turbine-generator and enough electricity was produced (about 150 kw) to meet the estimated needs of fifty average five-room dwellings, according to the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation, which operates the Laboratory for the AEC. Although capable of producing both fissionable material and electric power, the homogeneous reactor, intended as a pilot model, was not designed to produce economic electric power.

"T-particles", introduced late last year to explain certain peculiar events appearing in high-altitude cosmic-ray plates, may not be needed, according to word from Cornell University. The otherwise unexplained presence of T-shaped tracks found in their emulsions had been suggested by Brookhaven's M. Blau and E. O. Salant as being a result of "the break up of the heavy, slow T-particle at (or near) the end of its range into two fast, singly-charged particles, the break up occurring either by decay of the T-particle or by its annihilation with one of the charged particles of the emulsion". In the February 1st issue of *The Physical Review*, the Cornell team of Barrett, Cocconi, and Eisenberg reports that the number of such events found in their search for T-tracks seemed to be "well accounted for by chance coincidences". They conclude that "in order to explain the occurrence of the T-tracks observed in our plates, it is not necessary to postulate the existence of any special particles".

The preservation of wine by exposure to ultrahigh-frequency radiation is the subject of recent experiments carried out in France. M. Lafargue of the Central Radio School in Paris, writing in last month's issue of the magazine, *Radio-Electronics*, describes the use of wavelengths ranging from several millimeters to 1.2 meters to improve the keeping qualities of wines during the aging process. Decreases of ten to thirty-four percent in the volatile acid content and the retardation of the "turning" of wines were observed as a result of uhf treatment. The exact mechanism by which these effects are produced is not known.

## Laboratories

The Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University is constructing a new \$1.6 million laboratory on a 216-acre site in Howard County, fifteen miles from Silver Spring, Maryland. The new university building, which will provide completely air-conditioned office and laboratory space for two hundred and fifty people, should be completed in about a year.

The University of Arizona, Tucson, is planning to establish a radiocarbon dating laboratory under the direction of Emil W. Haury, head of the university's department of anthropology and director of the Arizona State Museum. Edward N. Wise will serve as technical supervisor of the age determination program, which will be supported by a \$6000 grant from Research Corporation. The new carbon 14 laboratory, to be constructed