

(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.

C. J. Aaronson (née Aronson)
Naval Ordnance Laboratory

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

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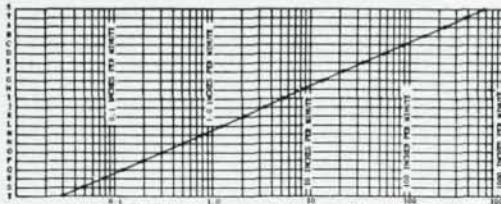
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in the chemistry-physics building, will be shielded by twelve tons of block iron to prevent the atmosphere's radiocarbon from contaminating specimens under study. It is expected that the laboratory will be ready for testing by June, and in operation about a year from now.

The Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska has recently received support from the Air Force Cambridge Research Center for the study of the lunar tidal variation in the magnetic elements recorded at the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Observatory at Sitka, Alaska. The project is under the direction of Sydney Chapman, advisory scientific director of the Institute. Dr. Chapman is also planning an extensive program for the study of the morphology of magnetic storms using data now being contributed from magnetic observatories throughout the world.

Summer Courses

Cornell University's annual summer laboratory course in techniques and applications of the electron microscope will be offered from June 15th to 27th by the department of engineering physics laboratory of electron microscopy. James Hillier of the RCA Laboratories and C. E. Hall of MIT will be guest lecturers. The course, given under the direction of Benjamin M. Siegel, is designed for research workers who have recently entered the field of electron microscopy or who are planning to do so. Further inquiries should be addressed to Dr. Benjamin M. Siegel, Department of Engineering Physics, Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Summer laboratory courses, conducted since 1944 by the Graduate School of Physics and the Institute of Polymer Research at Brooklyn Polytechnic, are again scheduled this year. Courses are being offered in industrial applications of x-ray diffraction (June 1-12), molecular weight determination of polymers (July 27-31), and progress in polymerization and copolymerization techniques (August 3-7). Inquiries should be addressed to Professor I. Fankuchen, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, 85 Livingston Street, Brooklyn 1, New York.

Textile research will be the subject of a four-week special summer program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this year. The program, to be given from July 6th to 31st, will be under the supervision of Edward R. Schwarz, professor of textile technology, and will deal largely with the role of fundamental research in textiles as it relates to the interpretation and handling of laboratory findings. Further information can be obtained from the Director of the Summer Session, Room 3-107, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

The theory of the plastic deformation of metals, with special reference to creep and fatigue, will be reviewed during a short summer school and conference conducted by the H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory and the Department of Adult Education of the University

of Bristol, in cooperation with the British Institute of Physics, from July 13th to 16th in Bristol. The course will include lectures by N. F. Mott, A. J. Forty, and F. C. Frank and is intended mainly for research students at universities and for members of the staffs of government and industrial laboratories. Further information and application forms, which must be returned before May 31st, can be obtained from the Secretary of The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London S.W. 1, England.

Henry Crew, professor emeritus of physics at Northwestern University, died on February 17th at Evanston, Illinois at the age of ninety-three. A native of Richmond, Ohio, Dr. Crew studied at Princeton and later at Berlin and at Johns Hopkins, where he received his PhD in physics in 1887. He taught physics at Johns Hopkins and at Haverford College and was a physics instructor and astronomer at the Lick Observatory before joining the staff of Northwestern in 1892, where he held the position of professor of physics until 1931. From 1931 to 1933 he was in charge of the division of basic sciences of the Century of Progress Exposition at Chicago. Dr. Crew served as president of the American Physical Society in 1909 and also belonged to the Optical Society of America and to the American Association of Physics Teachers, which honored him by its presentation of the Oersted Medal for notable contributions to the teaching of physics.

Ellis I. Fulmer, assistant to the director of the Iowa State College Institute for Atomic Research and the Ames Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission, died on February 10, 1953, following a heart attack. Dr. Fulmer, who was sixty-one, had been at Iowa State College since 1919 and with the Institute since its inception in 1947. A specialist in the field of biophysical chemistry, he was particularly interested in the young, beginning student. A memorial fund for a collection of technical books for the Iowa State College Physical Sciences Library is being established in honor of his long and devoted service.

William L. Kennon, chairman of the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Mississippi and a member of the Mississippi faculty for more than forty years, died at his home in Oxford, Mississippi on December 4, 1952. He was seventy years old. Dr. Kennon was a graduate of Millsaps College and received the PhD degree at Johns Hopkins in 1906. He joined the Mississippi faculty in 1909 after having taught physics and chemistry at Millsaps, Kentucky Wesleyan College, and at Williams College. Dr. Kennon was a member of both the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers. He is the author of *Astronomy*, an accepted college text in the field.