

Meetings

Optical Society

Spring Meeting in New York

Eighty-six papers were presented before the Optical Society of America at its spring meeting in New York's Hotel Statler on March 19, 20 and 21, 1953. A concurrent meeting of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness (in another part of the same hotel) caused some confusion and the comment that perhaps two such enlightened groups should meet jointly sometime: Registration at the OSA meeting totaled 540, the actual attendance being somewhat larger, and 237 members and guests of the society attended an informal dinner on Friday evening, March 20, in the Georgian room of the Statler.

Contributed papers made up the bulk of the program which dealt largely with the design of optical systems and elements. Several papers were devoted to the use of modern computing machine techniques in this work. Others were concerned with spectroscopy, especially in the ultraviolet and infrared regions, and with a variety of applied problems. A special symposium on photometry was featured, consisting of invited papers by C. S. Bridgman on "Prediction of Mesopic Luminosity Curves", R. P. Teele on "Photometric Units", William F. Little on "Applied Photometry with Special Reference to the Gonio Types", and W. E. Knowles Middleton on "Physical Methods of Photometry".

Dies for the newly established Edgar D. Tillyer Medal were presented to the Society by the American Optical Company at the dinner on Friday evening, and Walter A. Stewart, president of the company, spoke briefly on the achievements of Dr. Tillyer. The medal is to be given biennially by the Optical Society for out-

standing scientific contributions in the field of vision. The first award will be made in 1954. Conditions for the award are to be decided upon by an OSA committee which will submit its report at next year's Spring Meeting. Among the many developments in optics pioneered by Dr. Tillyer, who was present at the meeting, are the Tillyer lenses, spectacle lenses correcting both spherical and cylindrical marginal errors to a minimum, submarine periscope optical systems, and a rapid method of making Schmidt corrector plates which has made projection television feasible. OSA President Brian O'Brien accepted the medal in behalf of the Society.

The after-dinner speaker was Richard C. Lord, director of the Spectroscopy Laboratory at MIT. After discussing various aspects of military and nonmilitary optics and their common interests, with illustrations from the field of infrared instrumentation, Dr. Lord went on to a general analysis of the problem of civilian scientists cooperating with the military establishment. He emphasized that motives of patriotism, entirely apart from personal and professional considerations, are an important part of the picture. Many scientists are eager to accept government support for their "pure" research, he pointed out, while a smaller number are willing to engage in military research and development, especially in government laboratories. This tendency was deplored by Dr. Lord as not being in the best interests of the nation.

Electron Physics Sessions

Planned for Rochester APS Meeting

The Division of Electron Physics of the American Physical Society is sponsoring several sessions of invited and contributed papers at the regular meeting of the Physical Society to be held at Rochester, N. Y., June 18-20. Invited papers are expected to be presented on field emission of electrons, photoconductivity, and the theory and experiment of secondary electron emission, both by electron and ion bombardment. It is anticipated that a substantial part of the contributed papers on electron physics will have to do with these subjects. The Division's program committee for the meeting is under the chairmanship of K. G. McKay, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N. J.

Michigan Symposia

Astrophysics and X-Ray Diffraction

The University of Michigan's annual Summer Symposium on Modern Physics will be divided into two parts this year, one concerned with astrophysics and the other with x-ray diffraction. In the astrophysics symposium (June 29 to July 24) emphasis will be placed on the discussion of current problems in the structure and evolution of stars and galaxies. Problems concerning stellar interiors, galactic structure, and related subjects will be described for the benefit of physicists, while astronomers will hear of recent developments in the various branches of physics having ap-



Walter A. Stewart (left) presents dies for Edgar D. Tillyer Medal to Brian O'Brien. Dr. Tillyer is at the right.