to 1950, inclusive, has been published by the American Institute of Physics for the American Physical Society. Prepared at the University of Minnesota under the direction of J. W. Buchta, the index represents a complete reworking of the individual volume indices of the journal during the thirty-year period in the light of present-day reference requirements. The massive task of compilation was carried out with the support of the Office of Naval Research. Professor Buchta, who is the present editor of *Reviews of Modern Physics*, served from 1930 to 1950 as assistant editor of *The Physical Review*.

It was once intended that the Physical Society would publish a cumulative index of *The Physical Review* every tenth year, but that high objective has never been realized. Only one index of the journal has been published, and it covered the period from the first issue in 1893 through the year 1920. Publication of an index for 1921–30 was prevented by the depression, and the next target date of 1940 was interfered with by the Second World War.

One volume of the index (543 pp.) is a listing of authors; the second volume (498 pp.) is a comprehensive subject index. Copies are available from the American Institute of Physics, 57 East 55th Street, New York 22, N. Y., in both stiff paper binding and cloth binding. The prices, respectively, are $10 and $12 per two-volume set for members of the American Physical Society (limit: one set), and $14 and $16 for nonmembers.

Patent Claim Settled

Discovery in Rome Finally Pays Off

Settlement of a patent claim of long standing against the Atomic Energy Commission has been completed, according to the AEC, which announced on July 31st that payment of $300,000 as compensation for partial revocation of a patent granted to seven atomic scientists in 1940, and for infringing use by the AEC and the Manhattan District, had been approved by the Commission and its patent compensation board. The patent, entitled "Process for the Production of Radioactive Substances", was granted in 1940 on the basis of work by the scientists in Rome prior to 1934; it involved the discovery that radioactive isotopes of a number of elements can be produced by exposing the elements to neutrons slowed down by passage through a moderating material.

Scientists holding an interest in the patent are Edoardo Amaldi of the Istituto fisico della Universita in Rome, Oscar d'Agnostino of the Istituto di Sanita Pubblica in Rome, Enrico Fermi of the University of Chicago, Bruno Pontecorvo (?), Franco Rasetti of Johns Hopkins, Emilio Segre of the University of California at Berkeley, and Guilio Trabacchi, also of the Istituto di Sanita Pubblica. Each of them, with the exception of Pontecorvo, held an eighth interest, as did G. M. Giannini and Co., Inc., of Pasadena, assignee and legal owner of the patent. Pontecorvo, who disappeared in September 1950 after flying to Finland from England, originally held an eighth interest in the patent, but he assigned half of his interest to Eugene Ghiron-Fubini, Glen Head, Long Island, New York, in October 1942. Pontecorvo gave his power of attorney to the attorney for the applicants before his disappearance. The one-sixteenth share still assigned to Pontecorvo will be deposited in the U. S. Treasury pursuant to Treasury Departmental Circular No. 655, which governs the payment of funds to individuals in "certain" countries.

Miscellany

The vacancy on the Atomic Energy Commission caused by the resignation some months ago of former commissioner Thomas Keith Glennan has been filled by the appointment of Joseph Campbell, treasurer of Columbia University and its vice-president in charge of business affairs.

Donald A. Quarles, president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers during the past year and an official of Western Electric and the Sandia Corporation, has been named Assistant Secretary for Research and Development in the Department of Defense. His nomination was confirmed by the Senate on July 30th. The new post was established in accordance with President Eisenhower's proposal of April 30th for reorganizing the Defense Department and for abolishing the Research and Development Board.

A new periodic chart of the elements has been issued by the Central Scientific Company. Three styles are available, giving the symbol, atomic number, atomic weight, electronic configuration, naturally occurring isotopes, principal oxidation states, valence electrons, melting point, boiling point and density for each element in the wall chart format. An $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inch version is also made, suitable for student use. Full details may be obtained from the Central Scientific Company, 1700 Irving Park Road, Chicago 13, Illinois.

Standard letter symbols for meteorology have recently been approved by the American Standards Association and published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The rapid growth of the science during World War II caused confusion in symbol usage, and the new standard has been established in the interests of uniformity. The list of symbols was prepared by a group of specialists from the armed services, government agencies, universities, airlines, and meteorological publications, under the administrative leadership of the ASME. Copies of the eleven-page *American Standard Letter Symbols for Meteorology* (Y10.10–1953) are available from the American Standards Association, 70 East 45th Street, New York, N. Y., or from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 39 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y., at $1.00 per copy.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, in cooperation with the Westinghouse Edu-