

# Meetings

## Aero-Thermoacoustics

On June 28-29, approximately 50 scientists met in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to participate in a symposium on Aero-Thermoacoustics. Massachusetts Institute of Technology acted as the host organization.

The opening address of the symposium was delivered by C. Richard Soderberg, dean of the MIT School of Engineering. The participants were recruited amongst aerodynamicists, acousticians, meteorologists, astrophysicists, and applied mathematicians. Ten papers were presented on various phases of the connection of aerodynamics and thermodynamics to sound. In addition, four discussion panels were conducted to summarize and criticize our state of knowledge on various aspects of this growing field.

The lively discussions which occurred during the meeting were of great help in clarifying several of the difficulties encountered and also in breaking down the disciplines. The proceedings of the symposium will appear in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* in the near future.

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## Women in Science

A conference on the role of the women's colleges in the physical sciences was held on the Bryn Mawr College campus on June 17-18. It was attended by seventeen professors of chemistry, mathematics, or physics from as many independent women's colleges, by twelve research and development officials from large industries, and by representatives of government agencies, hospitals, and educational associations.

Claude J. Lapp, of the National Research Council, opened the sessions with a review of the national need for scientific workers and of the prospects for supplying this need. Experiences of various industries and laboratories in the employment of women in research, development, and other technical work were discussed and the resources of the women's colleges for the education of increasing numbers of women in the physical sciences were considered. From these talks it became apparent that every group represented at the conference is using women scientists to an increasing extent; that the employment of such women has proven beneficial in spite of some resignations for family reasons; that the need for more scientists, both men and women, can be expected to grow faster than the supply for a long period of time.

It was found, somewhat to the surprise of those present, that the independent women's colleges are the major source of scientific womanpower, the proportion of women majoring in the physical sciences in these institutions being far greater than in the universities and somewhat greater than the national average for men. In spite of this, it was demonstrated that even more young women could be taught with presently available facilities if they were encouraged toward the sciences in the secondary schools and given increased scholarship aid.

The conference recommended that administrators, teachers, and guidance officers present to girls in the high schools the facts regarding the national need for scientists, that increasing emphasis be placed on mathematics in the schools, and that efforts be made to aid and encourage young women of scientific promise through increased scholarship help. It also pointed out that women can play a very important part as teachers in the secondary schools. In this connection, it was suggested that industry, the colleges, and school administrators join in reviewing certification requirements, with the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the teaching of mathematics and science in the high schools.

A detailed report of the conference is being printed. It may be obtained on request from the chairman, Walter C. Michels, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

## Optical Society

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America takes place October 14-16 at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Members of the Society from the East and Mid-West are making the western trek in a streamline train (the *Golden State Limited*) that has been reserved for the occasion. Space on the train, which leaves Chicago on the afternoon of October 12th and picks up additional cars from Minneapolis and St. Louis while en route, is reported to have been completely sold out. The technical program, consisting of 38 contributed papers and nine invited papers, is to be supplemented by visits to plants in the Los Angeles area, including a trip to one of the motion-picture studios, and by the annual dinner, to be preceded by a cocktail party. One event scheduled for the after-dinner program, it has been announced, is the presentation of the Society's Frederic Ives Medal to I. C. Gardner of the National Bureau of Standards.

## Microwave Techniques

A symposium on modern advances in microwave techniques will be held on November 8, 9, and 10 in New York City under the sponsorship of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. The program is to cover developments in microwave tubes, theory and applications of reciprocal and nonreciprocal guides and devices, and measurement techniques. A round table dis-