

Miscellany

Committees

Officials of both industry and the government have asked that the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council establish within its framework a committee to concern itself with matters involving the common interests and relationships of industrial and governmental research, particularly in the area of applied research. Conferences between leaders from industry and government, called by the Academy—Research Council, recommended that a small committee be formed to explore the subject. The resulting NAS-NRC Government—Industry Research Committee, which has held its first meeting, has concluded that effective mechanisms already exist in many fields for furthering mutually helpful relations between government and industry research, but has agreed to “hold itself available as necessary to assist in exchanging views and ideas designed to improve such relations”. When its services are requested, the Committee proposes to consider first the extent to which the need can be satisfied by existing mechanisms. If appropriate, the Committee will consider the designation of an ad hoc group of individuals active in the particular field concerned to assist in bringing about improved understanding and closer relations between government and industry people in that field.

The Committee has the following membership: Edgar C. Bain, United States Steel Corporation, Chairman; Allen V. Astin, National Bureau of Standards; D. P. Barnard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Research and Development; Ralph Bown, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.; Ralph Connor, Rohm and Haas Company; Hugh L. Dryden, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; Paul D. Foote, Gulf Research and Development Company; G. E. Hilbert, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Randolph Major, Merck and Company, Inc.; Roy C. Newton, Swift and Company; and Alan T. Waterman, National Science Foundation.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers has established a Nuclear Engineering Committee to coordinate its activities in “those areas of mechanical engineering in which a knowledge of nuclear physics is essential”. Such areas include shielding, fuels and fuel fabrication, radiation effects, and nuclear power plant operation. The new committee, which is distinct from ASME’s Nuclear Energy Application Committee, a policy group, may lead to the formation of another permanent professional division of the Society. ASME

now has twenty-one such divisions. The immediate functions of the new committee are to plan for the participation of ASME in a nuclear engineering conference scheduled for next summer and to study ASME’s long-range needs in this field. Albert C. Pasini of the Detroit Edison Company has been named chairman.

Grants and Fellowships

The latest series of National Science Foundation grants for the support of basic scientific research has been made public, with a total of \$2.65 million earmarked for 216 projects. Included in this sum is a special appropriation of \$100 000 for the work of the U. S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year 1957–58. The awards in physics were the following: J. R. Pellam (California Institute of Technology), cryogenic research; S. A. Friedberg (Carnegie Institute of Technology), investigations in low-temperature physics; J. E. Miller (Clemson Agricultural College), a study of sulfur; H. A. Boorse (Columbia University), research in low-temperature physics; L. Brillouin (Columbia University), physics and information theory; P. Kusch (Columbia University), energy levels and hyperfine structure of helium three and four; H. Sponer (Duke University), electronic structure of molecules; L. D. Wyly (Georgia Institute of Technology), angular correlations between nuclear radiations; J. S. Koehler and F. Seitz (University of Illinois), plastic deformation; R. Maurer (University of Illinois), low-temperature research on polar crystals; K. A. Brueckner (Indiana University), theory and interpretation of elementary particles; G. H. Dieke (Johns Hopkins University), spectroscopy of rare earths at low temperatures; L. W. Seagondollar (University of Kansas), nuclear reactions with 3 Mev protons; G. C. Krueger (University of Maine), phase contrast analysis of non-homogeneous transient phenomena; B. B. Rossi (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), cosmic-ray research; C. Dean and G. A. Jeffrey (University of Pittsburgh), nuclear quadrupole coupling and x-ray diffraction data; C. F. Squire (Rice Institute), studies in solid-state physics; J. W. Keuffel (University of Utah), a scintillation counter study of unstable cosmic-ray particles; A. S. Skapski (University of Vermont and State Agricultural College), the influence of thickness on the melting point of thin lamellae; K. M. Watson (University of Wisconsin), high-energy nuclear reactions; and C. T. Lane (Yale University), low-temperature physics. The individual grants are for periods ranging up to three years.

In addition, the Foundation has made funds available for the support of the NAS-NRC Committee on Nuclear Sciences, the 3rd Berkeley Symposium on Mathematical Statistics and Probability, a conference on radiocarbon dating in archeology, a conference on molecular quantum mechanics at the University of Texas, a survey of the mathematical foundations of quantum mechanics to be carried out at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a survey on doctoral