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M Meetings

Semiconductors

A symposium on semiconductor research was held on February 11th at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, with William Shockley delivering the first Thomas A. Edison Lecture, sponsored by the NRL branch of the Scientific Research Society of America, on the "Present and Future of Semiconductor Research". Among the various features of the meeting was a demonstration of a transistorized FM transmitter and receiver that could be clipped to a shirt collar. New electro-etching and depositing techniques, used in the surface-barrier transistor, permit operating frequencies up to 60 mc, according to a paper given by W. E. Bradley of Philco. Another indication of transistor progress was the report by C. L. Rouault of General Electric of experimental 50 watt transistors capable of carrying as much as an ampere of current. Other papers dealt with nonsaturating flip-flop circuits using transistors and designed for 1-7 mc operation, silicon high-temperature transistors, and semiconducting combinations such as indium-antimony, aluminum-antimony, cadmium sulfide, and lead sulfide. Summaries of the physical properties of silicon and germanium and reports of studies on semiconductor noise were also presented.

Physical Society

The Annual Meeting of the American Physical Society was held in New York on January 28-30, and the 2100 registrants and more than 300 papers, as anticipated in the APS *Bulletin*, came "very near to bursting the seams of Columbia University", which was host to the meeting this year as it has been for the past fifty-five years. In the future, it was announced, the Annual Meeting will be held in hotels in New York City. A special program on Physics at Columbia was given to commemorate the long association between the Physical Society and Columbia and to help celebrate the latter's bicentennial anniversary. A highlight of the meeting was Enrico Fermi's retiring presidential address entitled, "What Can We Learn With High-Energy Accelerators?", in which the allegedly logical consequences of accelerator progress were described; this was followed by the presentation of the American Association of Physics Teachers' Oersted Medal to C. N. Wall and the twelfth Richtmyer Lecture, "Fields and Particles", by J. A. Wheeler. The Banquet featured after-