

Radio Science

A joint meeting at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington (May 3-6) is being sponsored by the U. S. A. National Committee of the International Scientific Radio Union (URSI) and the Institute of Radio Engineers Professional Group on Antennas and Propagation and the IRE Professional Group on Microwave Theory and Techniques. The program lists more than one hundred papers distributed among some seventeen separate sessions. Subjects for discussion include ionospheric and auroral studies, radio astronomy, millimeter waves, and a variety of topics relating to the transmission of radio waves. An afternoon session on May 4th, dealing with echoes and other phenomena in the auroral zone, is sponsored jointly by Commission 3 of URSI and the Section on Terrestrial Magnetism and Electricity of the American Geophysical Union.

Scientific Explanation

The Physics Club of the Lehigh Valley, an affiliated society of the American Institute of Physics, is holding a joint meeting with Sigma Xi at Lehigh University on May 11. An invited address will be presented by A. C. Crombie, professor of the history of science at Oxford University, who will speak on the subject, "Conceptions of Scientific Explanation before and after Galileo". Dr. Crombie is widely considered to be an authority on the history of science, especially with regard to the age of Galileo.

Mass Spectrometry

The second annual meeting of the American Society for Testing Materials' Committee E-14 on Mass Spectrometry is scheduled for May 24-28 at the Jung Hotel, New Orleans. A total of forty-six papers on various aspects of this subject will be given, and in addition mass spectrometer "clinics" are to be held by the Consolidated Engineering Corporation and the General Electric Company. Isotopic abundance determinations, ionization potentials, solids analysis, high molecular weight analysis, and new mass spectrometer developments will be among the topics covered. Further information may be obtained from Mr. William Priestley, Jr., Standard Oil Development Company, P.O. Box 121, Linden, New Jersey.

Engineering Education

The 62nd annual meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education will be held June 14-18 at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Two component organizations of the ASEE, the Engineering College Research Council and the Engineering College Administrative Council, will sponsor conferences during the meeting and will hold a joint dinner to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the engineering experiment stations at Iowa State College and the

University of Illinois. The dinner speaker will be Lee A. DuBridge, president of the California Institute of Technology. There will be more than one hundred individual conference programs arranged by the numerous divisions, committees, and councils of the Society. A feature of the meeting will be the presentation of a comprehensive report of a special committee for the evaluation of engineering education.

High Vacuum Symposium

The Committee on Vacuum Techniques, recently established nonprofit corporation representing the vacuum equipment industry and users of vacuum processes, is planning a high vacuum symposium to be held June 16-18 at the Berkeley Carteret Hotel in Asbury Park, New Jersey. The program will include a panel on nomenclature and standards and sessions on new equipment and instruments, developments in vacuum technology, methods and techniques, and applications and processes. Additional information can be obtained from the Committee at P.O. Box 1282, Boston, Massachusetts.

Colloquium of College Physicists

The dates of the Annual Colloquium of College Physicists at the University of Iowa are June 16-19, 1954. As is traditional with the Colloquium there will be emphasis on the exhibit of new devices, reports of research, and round-table discussions on teaching problems. Special consideration will be given radio astronomy and the application of atomic power. The program will be climaxed by the four lectures of Dean J. H. Van Vleck of the Division of Applied Science at Harvard, on radio and microwave spectroscopy of the solid state.

Electron Microscopy Conference

The Joint Commission on Electron Microscopy of the International Council of Scientific Unions is sponsoring an international conference which is to be held in London, July 16-21, at the invitation of the Electron Microscopy Group of the British Institute of Physics. The program will include sessions on instruments and associated apparatus, electron optics, attainment of very high resolution, reflection methods, metallurgical and chemical applications, electron irradiation effects on matter, and various specialized techniques and applications of electron microscopy. Joint secretaries for the conference are Dr. C. E. Challice and Mr. F. W. Cuckow, c/o The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W. 1, England.

Oxide-Coated Cathodes

An international congress to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first paper ever to be published dealing with oxide-coated cathodes is to be held in Paris,