

since informing others of the failure of an otherwise appealing method may prevent enough wasted effort to compensate the authors for their embarrassment. A case in point is the paper describing "A Variational Calculation of the Elastic Scattering of Electrons by Hydrogen Atoms," by Howard Boyet and Sidney Borowitz, which appeared in the March 15 *Physical Review*. The extension of the Schwinger variational method to three-body collisions was used, since "in principle this method has the advantage that cruder trial functions could be used." A Born trial field was employed in the calculations because it gave the proper result in the static-field formulation of the problem. The result: "The Born trial is one of the simplest that can be used analytically, and yet the integrals involved when it is used in our problem are very complex, and the results poor. This would seem to discourage the use of this method in problems such as these."

The relationship between Newton, an apple, and gravity is at least as firmly established as the relationship between Adam, the apple, and sin, if we are to believe a memoir by a contemporary of Newton quoted by E. C. Watson in the May issue of the *American Journal of Physics*. The relevant passage concerns a visit made by the author of the memoir, William Stukeley, on April 15, 1726: "After dinner, the weather being warm, we went into the garden and drank tea, under the shade of some apple-trees, only he and myself. Amidst other discourse, he told me, he was just in the same situation, as when formerly, the notion of gravitation came into his mind. It was occasion'd by the fall of an apple, as he sat in a contemplative mood. Why should that apple always descend perpendicularly to the ground, thought he to himself. Why should it not go sideways or upwards, but constantly to the earth's centre? . . . This was the birth of those amazing discoveries, whereby he built philosophy on a solid foundation, to the astonishment of all Europe."

## Established

The National Science Foundation has recently appointed an Advisory Panel for Radio Astronomy having the following membership: M. A. Tuve, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D. C., chairman; B. J. Bok, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts; J. L. Greenstein, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; J. P. Hagen, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C.; J. D. Kraus, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; R. Minkowski, Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories, Pasadena, California; E. M. Purcell, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In Boston, Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital have announced the opening of the Biophysics Research Laboratory of the Department of Medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. The laboratory is engaged in the study of trace elements in biology and medicine and has as one of its major in-

terests the study of spectrographic sources and receivers. Biophysical and biochemical approaches will be combined wherever possible. Training facilities are provided for pre- and post doctoral students in the natural sciences and medicine. The laboratory, which has been constructed over a period of three years, has a floor area of about 8000 square feet. It is staffed by Bert L. Vallee, and his associates Frederick L. Hoch, Marvin Margoshes, and Ralph E. theirs.

## Organizations

The National Academy of Sciences at its ninety-first annual meeting in Washington, D. C., elected a president, a foreign secretary, two members of the Council, thirty members, and three foreign associates. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York City, was re-elected president for a four-year term, beginning July 1, 1954, and ending June 30, 1958. Dr. Bronk has served as president of the Academy since July 1, 1950. John G. Kirkwood, director of the Sterling Chemistry Laboratory, Yale University, was elected foreign secretary for a four-year term, beginning July 1, 1954 and ending June 30, 1958. Dr. Kirkwood succeeds Roger Adams, head of the department of chemistry and chemical engineering, University of Illinois. Other officers of the Academy, all of whom are members of the Council are: vice-president, George W. Corner; home secretary, Alexander Wetmore; treasurer, William J. Robbins. Farrington Daniels, department of chemistry, University of Wisconsin, and Merle A. Tuve, Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, were elected to membership on the Council of the Academy to serve until June 30, 1957. Additional members of the Council are Hugh L. Dryden, Robert F. Loeb, William W. Rubey, Wendell M. Stanley, and Edwin B. Wilson. Newly elected members of the Academy include the following: Horace W. Babcock, Edgar C. Bain, John Bardeen, Wallace R. Brode, Britton Chance, Richard P. Feynman, James B. Fisk, George E. Kimball, Willis E. Lamb, William F. Meggers, Brian O'Brien, Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky, Ernest H. Vestine, and Albert E. Whitford.

The Cooperative Committee on the Teaching of Science and Mathematics of the American Association for the Advancement of Science elected, at its annual spring meeting in Chicago, John R. Mayor of the University of Wisconsin as chairman. Dr. Mayor, for several years the representative of the Mathematical Association of America on the committee, succeeds Morris Meister, principal of the Bronx High School of Science and representative of the National Science Teachers Association. Laurence L. Quill of Michigan State College, representing the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society, was elected to the newly created office of vice-chairman. Bernard B. Watson of the Operations Research Office of Johns Hopkins University, representing the American Association of Physics Teachers, was reelected secretary of