the Placement Service of the American Institute of Physics

As most physicists know, the American Institute of Physics operates a placement service for the benefit of members and other physicists and of employers of physicists. The AIP Placement Service has become, in recent years, a major activity. It is on the job every day, all year round—not only when it comes most prominently to attention on the crowded occasions of the large national meetings. Much of the daily work of the Placement Service is handled by correspondence, but the visitors' desk in the front hall of the Institute is almost always in use by one or more individuals going through the lists of job vacancies or by representatives of universities, industrial companies, government agencies, and others seeking to employ physicists.

In all of its work on placement, the Institute does its best to make readily accessible a maximum amount of information in convenient form for those who want it. It assists in bringing registrants and employers together, but it makes no recommendations. It offers its services free of charge to both employers and registrants.

Once or twice a year at a large gathering of physicists (the January joint meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Phyiscs Teachers usually provides the best occasion), the Placement Service "Register" is set up. It is essentially a large meeting place. Here personal contact through the arrangement of interviews is the primary objective. The Register necessarily occupies considerable space, such as a student laboratory, gymnasium, or banquet hall, but it is invariably crowded with hundreds of employers and registrants. An extensive system of posted information and interview scheduling is operated by a staff of from three to six people.

At any time of the year any physicist, whether or not a member of the Institute, can register as an applicant for a position. He is given a blank on which to fill in information about his age, training, experience, field of competence, and other information properly interesting to employers. His choice as to the nature and locale of employment may be indicated and also the salary range desired. Likewise, employers may list available positions at the Institute, describing them in their own words, and these listings are open to inspection by applicants. At the big meetings a list of employing organizations having representatives on the spot is posted. At any time of the year the Placement staff will, at the request of an employer, search the files for registrants with specified qualifications and mail copies of the forms filled out by those registrants.

The most fruitful way to use the Placement Service is to be present in person at one of the "Registers". Second best is a personal visit to the Institute office. Service by mail is also good, however. and has been improved by a new innovation which is also valuable

at meeting Registers. This is the reproduction of the complete up-to-date registrants' file in book form quarterly for distribution to employers at their request. A nominal fee to cover the cost of printing and mailing is charged. Each applicant is personally checked for each edition. The Institute constantly searches for available physicists by placing notices and advertisements in journals and bulletins, and by direct mail to graduate students.

The Institute informally concerned itself with placement early in its existence. The activity was first formalized under the direction of Mr. George H. Burnham in 1942, when the initial Register was set up in Baltimore. The war then caused an interruption, except for continued informal service, until, in 1946, Dr. Donald E. Kirkpatrick of Queens College fathered the present plan of operation. The Institute is greatly indebted to him also for subsequent development of the Service, one which now brings the Institute considerable good will. The present staff of the Placement Service ordinarily consists of a full time secretary plus the advice of a part time supervisor. During the Registers at meetings, additional help is obtained from other departments of the Institute and from generous volunteers outside of the AIP staff.

The next Placement Service Register will be set up at the forthcoming 25th Anniversary Meeting of the Institute, January 30–February 4, 1956. Two floors of the Hotel New Yorker have been reserved for it.

The statistics given below show how the Placement Service has grown as an activity of the AIP. They also shed light on the favorable employment situation from the standpoint of physicists in the United States, although, of course, they by no means reflect all of the recruitment activity in the country. There were actually more job openings than listed in the second column of figures, because when an employer stated "several positions" it was only counted as two. It should be noted also that only a small percentage of the registrants other than students were actually unemployed. They were mostly seeking jobs better suited to their talents, ambitions, and special circumstances than those they currently had.

PLACEMENT REGISTER STATISTICS

Register Held	*Employers Represented*	*Definite Openings*	*Registrants*
May 1942	35	No Record	242
January 1946	69	76	187
April 1946	97	120	119
June 1946	122	236	74
January 1947	166	186	170
February 1947	202	222	189
May 1947	94	280	92
October 1947	73	143	67
January 1948	225	432	259
February 1949	286	No Record	242
February 1950	119	285	434
April 1950	133	281	370
February 1951	177	1422	361
October 1951	215	809	201
January 1952	207	1303	271
January 1953	203	663	222
April 1953	157	579	277
January 1954	158	519	367
April 1954	139	371	207
January 1955	198	486	234

Books

Progress in Low Temperature Physics. Volume I. Edited by C. J. Gorter. 418 pp. (North-Holland Publishing Company, Netherlands) Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1955. $8.75. *Reviewed by Ernest A. Lynton, Rutgers University.*

The all too meager collection of books on low temperature physics has just been greatly enriched by the appearance of this important collection of eighteen excellent review articles on various parts of the field. The considerable expansion and rapid progress in cyrogenics during the last few years had for some time already outdated much of what had appeared in books and review articles, and the need for a summary of recent results had steadily increased. Many people have talked about this matter; one must be very grateful to Professor Gorter for having done something about it.

He has not only done something; he has done it well. The table of contents of the book indicates the multitude of subjects which have been covered, and the excellent choice of people to write on them: I, The Two Fluid Model for Superconductors and Helium II, by C. J. Gorter; II, Applications of Quantum Mechanics to Liquid Helium, by R. P. Feynman; III, Rayleigh Disks in Liquid Helium II, by J. R. Pellam; IV, Oscillating Disks and Rotating Cylinders in Liquid Helium II, by A. C. Hollis Hallett; V, The Low Temperature Properties of Helium Three, by E. F. Hammel; VI, Liquid Mixtures of Helium Three and Four, by J. J. M. Beenakker and K. W. Taconis; VII, The Magnetic Threshold Curve of Superconductors, by B. Serin; VIII, The Effect of Pressure and of Stress on Superconductivity, by C. F. Squire; IX, Kinetics of the Phase Transition in Superconductors, by T. E. Faber and A. B. Pippard; X, Heat Conduction in Superconductors, by K. Mendelssohn; XI, The Electronic Specific Heat in Metals, by J. G. Daunt; XII, Paramagnetic Crystals in Use for Low Temperature Research, by A. H. Cooke; XIII, Antiferromagnetic Crystals, by N. J. Poulis and C. J. Gorter; XIV, Adiabatic Demagnetization, by D. de Klerk and M. J. Steenland; XV, Theoretical Remarks on Ferromagnetism at Low Temperatures, by L. Neel; XVI, Experimental Research on Ferromagnetism at Very Low Temperatures, by L. Weil; XVII, Velocity and Absorption of Sound in Condensed Gases, by A. van Itterbeek; and XVIII, Transport Phenomena in Gases at Low Temperatures, by J. de Boer.

Each chapter was written by an outstanding authority currently engaged in the particular field, and in close touch with other workers, and thus able to cite much