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Massachusetts Institute of Technology); Secretary, G. H. Carragan (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and General Council Representative, R. J. Seeger (National Science Foundation). Members at large on the Executive Committee are J. W. Buchta (University of Minnesota), J. H. Howey (Georgia Institute of Technology), M. W. White (Pennsylvania State University), and H. C. Wolfe (Cooper Union).

**The Southern California Section** of the American Association of Physics Teachers has elected the following officers for 1955-56: President, Julius Sumner Miller (El Camino College); Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas Neal Wilson (El Camino College); Vice President for Colleges and Universities, Albert Baez (University of Redlands); Vice President for Junior Colleges, Paul Odell (Compton College); and Vice President for High Schools, Norman Dille (La Habra High School). F. E. Deloume (El Camino College) was elected Chairman of the High School Physics Test Committee.

**This year's officers** of the Indiana Section of the AAPT are: President, Francis E. Throw (Wabash College); President Elect, R. W. Lefler (Purdue University); Secretary, H. Earl Martin (Hanover College); and Regional Representative, I. Walerstein (Purdue).

**Officers of the Texas Section of AAPT for 1955** are: Chairman, J. G. Potter (Texas A & M College); Vice Chairman, T. N. Hatfield (University of Houston); and Directors, F. C. McDonald (Southern Methodist University) and C. C. Schmidt (Texas Technological College).

**The Seventh General Assembly** of the International Council of Scientific Unions, convened August 9-13 in Oslo, Norway, elected Lloyd V. Berkner as its new president. Dr. Berkner, who is president of Associated Universities, Inc., headed the nine-man United States delegation to the ICSU General Assembly. Other officers of ICSU elected or re-elected at Oslo are: K. S. Krishnan (India) and P. Lejay (France), vice presidents; E. Herbays (Belgium), treasurer; A. V. Hill (United Kingdom), secretary general; B. Lindblad (Sweden), retiring president; V. A. Engelhardt (USSR) and A. Stoll (Switzerland), elected members of the bureau. During the Oslo meeting, ICSU accepted the invitation of the United States to convene the Eighth General Assembly in Washington, D. C., in 1958 as guests of the National Academy of Sciences. Other actions included election of the USSR to membership in ICSU, provision for the appointment of a special committee to plan a symposium on the organization of international science to be held at the time of the next General Assembly, and authorization for the appointment of a scientific committee to investigate the hazards of radiation. ICSU has offered its scientific cooperation in a similar study proposed in the United Nations.

## Established

The Polish Academy of Sciences has announced the establishment of a Nuclear Research Institute under



the direction of Andrzej Soltan. It was also announced that a 30-member committee of physicists, biologists, chemists, and technologists has been set up to plan and coordinate Poland's research in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Leopold Infeld of the University of Warsaw heads the committee.

**International Business Machines** Corporation has announced plans for a research and development laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland. It is expected to be in operation the first of next year. Ambros P. Speiser, associate professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, has been appointed director of the laboratory and will assume his new position after completing his present work as head of the computer group at the Institute.

The physics department of Saint Joseph's College, Philadelphia, has inaugurated a special two-term course in the physics of transistors to aid engineers, physicists, and chemists in bridging the gap between the theory and application of semiconductors. C. J. Kriessman, physicist with the Eckert Mauchly division of Remington Rand and a member of the department faculty, will present the weekly lecture.

**R. W. Wood**, emeritus research professor at The Johns Hopkins University, died on August 11th in Amityville, Long Island, after an illness of three months. He had been staying at his summer home in East Hampton. A former president of the American Physical Society (1935) and the recipient in 1933 of the Ives Medal for distinguished work in optics awarded by the Optical Society of America, Dr. Wood joined the physics department at Hopkins in 1901 as professor of experimental physics. Before that time he taught physics at the University of Wisconsin and studied at Harvard, Hopkins, Chicago, and Berlin. He achieved great popularity as a teacher of physics and was an outstanding demonstration lecturer. Most of his research contributions had to do with such topics in physical optics as resonance-radiation and fluorescence, infrared and ultraviolet photography, and the development of diffraction gratings for astrophysical research. His interest in infrared and ultraviolet radiation was responsible for various successful ventures into scientific criminology, and during his career he became widely known for having exposed certain scientific hoaxes and for having provided simple explanations correcting the mistakes of other eminent scientists. An account of his experiences is to be found in the biography *Dr. Wood* (Harcourt, Brace, & Co., 1941) written by William Seabrook.

He belonged to many scientific societies here and abroad and received many honors, including the Rumford Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Rumford Gold Medal of the Royal Society, the Draper Gold Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, and medals from the London Society of Arts and the Franklin Institute. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and an honorary member of the Optical Society of America.

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