tion of macromolecules (H. Jehle), on the thermodynamics of the Overhauser effect (W. A. Barker), and on condensation theory (A. Siegert). And there was considerable discussion on nuclear physics. Thus, G. Tauber described applications of the Hartree-Fock ideas to a self-consistent particle model of the nucleus, and F. Coester showed that the discrepancy between theoretical and experimental nuclear moments of inertia can be resolved by producing a one-parameter family of theoretical moments. A method for the solution of the quantum mechanical problem of many particle scattering with its important nuclear applications was discussed by K. M. Watson. Interestingly enough, this method lends itself to applications in statistical mechanics, as was explained by W. B. Riesenfeld.

This very wide range of topics shows clearly that such conferences involve little danger of creating narrow and over-departmentalized specialists. It suggests further that the meetings of the American Physical Society, in which all branches of the huge area of physics are under discussion simultaneously, and which have grown unreasonably large in recent years, have in fact outgrown their original usefulness. Whatever the case may be, this first venture of a theoretical midwest conference on a full scale seems to have been a success, and there was some talk of making it an annual affair either in Iowa City or at some other midwest university.

The local committee is preparing proceedings of this conference in the form of summaries of the talks given. These proceedings will be distributed to the participants and can be obtained by others upon request from our physics department.

F. Rohrlich
State University of Iowa

Neutron Diffraction

IN celebration of the tenth anniversary of the start of neutron diffraction research, the American Crystallographic Association is arranging a special symposium of invited lectures on neutron diffraction topics at its summer meeting to be held June 11–15 at French Lick, Indiana. These lectures will be of the review type and will summarize the various applications to which this technique has been directed. For further information, contact the program chairman, Dr. C. G. Shull, Department of Physics, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, L. I., N. Y.

Speech Communication

UNDER the joint sponsorship of the Acoustical Society of America, the Air Force Cambridge Research Center, and interested departments and laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a four-day Seminar (June 11–14) and a two-day Conference (June 15–16) on problems of speech communication will be offered at MIT in Cambridge, Mass. These events are scheduled in addition to sessions devoted to speech problems during the joint meeting of the Acous-

POSITIONS OPEN

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tical Society of America and the Second International Congress on Acoustics, taking place in Cambridge the week of June 17–23.

The Seminar and Conference have been planned to provide an opportunity for people with diverse training to meet and learn what progress has been made in the field, as well as to clarify in their own minds what direction future research might profitably take. The Seminar, although not conceived as an elementary course, should provide a suitable introduction for those who have little experience in bringing the combined techniques of the relevant scientific disciplines to bear on problems of speech communication. The Conference, which chronologically and logically follows the Seminar, will survey the latest research thinking on a number of these problems.

The basic theme of the Seminar is the contribution of acoustics, linguistics, psychology, and information theory to our understanding of the nature of speech communication. It is to be conducted in a relatively formal manner, with lectures, demonstrations, laboratory visits, and organized discussions. Since individual participants will differ widely as to their familiarity with the subject matter, two parallel sessions are planned. One session will be oriented towards engineers and others having a thorough grounding in mathematics and the physical sciences; the other will be oriented towards linguists and those whose training is primarily in the social sciences. The instructional staff will include A. N. Chomsky, P. Elias, C. G. M. Fant, J. L. Flanagan, M. Halle, A. S. House, I. Pollack, W. A. Rosenblith, and K. N. Stevens.

The Speech Communication Conference will consist of sessions on the following topics: (1) the measurement of intelligibility of speech; (2) recent advances in technical applications of speech research; (3) contributions to the theory of speech communication. The following are among those who have accepted invitations to contribute papers: E. W. Ayers, L. L. Beranek, E. E. David, Jr., J. P. Egan, D. Fry, R. Jakobson, K. Kryter, W. Lawrence, A. M. Liberman, G. A. Miller, and W. Wathen-Dunn, as well as some members of the instructing staff of the Seminar.

Persons desiring further information regarding the above events are asked to communicate with Prof. Morris Halle, Department of Modern Languages, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

Magnetism

A CONFERENCE on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials will be held October 16–18 in Boston by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in cooperation with the American Physical Society, the American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers, and the Institute of Radio Engineers. Authors should submit titles of proposed papers by June 15 and abstracts by August 1. For further details write to Dr. T. O. Paine, Measurements Laboratory, General Electric Company, West Lynn, Mass.