ings and lectures that will promote international friendship. Its president is M. Paul Langevin, and its temporary address is at the Musée Pédagogique, 41 rue Gay-Lussac, Paris.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

THE Second International Polar Year, which is to continue for 13 months, is now under way, since it began on August 1st, and while it is so new that reports have not yet arrived in this country to tell us which stations are actually at work and which are still making preparations, enough is known to assure that the undertaking will be a success.

A direct outcome of the appropriation by the last Congress of $30,000 for participation in the Second Polar Year program is the establishment of the so-called College-Fairbanks Polar Year Station in the interior of Alaska not far from the Arctic Circle and from the belt of maximum auroral frequency. Its position at the terminus of the Alaska Railroad has been particularly helpful in view of unavoidable delays in getting the project started. Furthermore, the active cooperation of Dr. Charles E. Bunnell, president of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, has been indispensable.

The College-Fairbanks station will be quite comparable in range of activity with any other Polar Year Station. The plans include magnetic, atmospheric electric, earth current, radio transmission and auroral observations and in the same vicinity there will be meteorological, including upper air, observations. The significance of simultaneous observations at a favorable point where little has heretofore been known can not be overemphasized. Heretofore there have only been four places where atmospheric electric and earth current observations have been going on at the same time. These include the Carnegie Institution of Washington observatories in Peru and Australia, the observatory at Ebro, Spain, and the Tucson Magnetic Observatory of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, where cooperation of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company have made possible such a program. However, at none of these have systematic radio observations been made. The Coast and Geodetic Survey has had occasion to observe the demand on the part of the students of radio transmission for magnetic information, since it has been obliged to furnish, long in advance of compilation of the results, copies of the magnetograms or lists of daily ranges of the magnetic elements from several of its observatories to investigators of radio transmission, including government scientific bureaus, scientific organizations and wire, cable and broadcasting companies.

The station is the result of the cooperative activity of a number of organizations which probably would not have been forthcoming unless Congress had taken the action that it did. These include the State Department, to whom the appropriation was made, the Department of Commerce through the Bureau of Standards in addition to the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Navy Department through the Naval Research Laboratory, the War Department through the Signal Corps, the Interior Department through furnishing special facilities in Alaska and valuable information, the Carnegie Institution of Washington through its Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines and private individuals.

The station is in the administrative charge of the senior representative of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mr. F. P. Ulrich, who on his regular duty is in charge of the Sitka Magnetic and Seismological Observatory, is erecting the buildings and installing the instruments. As soon as practicable he will be relieved by Mr. Everett R. Johnson and will then return to Sitka. Mr. H. F. Bennett will be the assistant magnetic observer. The Naval Research Laboratory will have Dr. H. B. Maris, associate physicist, and Mr. C. E. Johnson, radio man first class, U. S. N. The Carnegie Institution will have Messrs. W. J. Rooney and K. H. Sherman, who are expert in atmospheric electric and earth current work. The 5-year plan of auroral work which was made possible through a grant by the Rockefeller Foundation and which is being carried on by Professor V. R. Fuller and other personnel of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines will continue throughout the Polar Year. The regular personnel of the Weather Bureau will carry on the meteorological work.

The activities in other countries are numerous, and 33 nations are taking part. The Polar Year Commission, of which Mr. John A. Fleming, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Dr. N. H. Heck, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, are the American members, will undoubtedly be ready in the near future to issue a statement as to the progress being made by the different countries.

The plan for the Polar Year program was a spontaneous outcome of the success of the First Polar Year fifty years ago. While the working out of plans has been carried on in many different countries the work as a whole has been fostered by the Second Polar Year Commission. This was organized in 1929 and placed under the direction of Dr. D. La Cour, of Denmark, and the successful world-wide outcome under difficult conditions is to be credited largely to his initiative. The Polar Year for the Antarctic and other parts of the Southern Hemisphere which are

difficult of access during the southern winter are to start their Polar Year on January 1, 1933, but will likewise, insofar as practicable, extend the program over 13 months.

While the fundamental activities, magnetic and meteorological observations, are the same for the First and Second Polar Years, there is a great contrast in the associated activities, practically all of which were undreamed of at the time of the First Polar Year. Our knowledge of the interrelations of the different phenomena that are to be observed is still very inadequate both from the scientific and from the practical view-point. The results will be of very great value to all the organizations which are taking part and indirectly to the inhabitants of the earth as a whole. Not only will the government activities, which usually emphasize the practical view-point, benefit, but such organizations as the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which is making a study of the earth's magnetism as a whole, will find that the filling of important gaps in observations will aid greatly in their attack on the problem.

R. S. PATTON,
Director, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

TWELVE physicists have selected the University of California department of physics as a place to carry on research during the coming academic year, according to an announcement made by Professor E. E. Hall, chairman of the department.

Two men will come to Berkeley as Rockefeller Foundation Fellows, to work with Professor R. T. Birge. They will be: Dr. H. O. Kneser, of the University of Marburg, Germany, due in Berkeley about October 1, and Dr. Rafael Grinfeld, of La Plata University, Argentine, starting about September 15.

Dr. Robley D. Evans, National Research Council Fellow from the California Institute of Technology, will arrive about September 1 to work with Professor Leonard Loeb. Dr. Wendell H. Furry, another National Research Council Fellow, will arrive about August 15 to work with Associate Professor J. R. Oppenheimer. Dr. F. L. Nutting, of the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, is now working in the department on certain properties of quartz under the action of x-rays.

Other research men will work with Professor E. O. Lawrence, head of the new Radiation Laboratory. They will be Dr. Malcolm C. Henderson, of the University of Cambridge and honorary fellow at Yale University, who will visit from August 15 to December 31; Dr. John J. Livingood, instructor in physics last year at Princeton, arriving about August 15; Dr. Edwin M. McMillan, National Research Council Fellow from Princeton, arriving about October 1; Dr. Donald Cooksey, Yale University, visiting between August 1 and September 15; Dr. F. N. D. Kurie, Yale University, August 1 to September 15; Dr. James Brady, research fellow at St. Louis University, working until August 31. Dr. M. S. Livingston, alumnus of the University of California, is expected to continue work in the radiation laboratory.

THE YORK MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in York from Wednesday, August 31 to Wednesday, September 7. According to a summary of the final program given in the London *Times*, the inaugural general meeting, at which the presidential address will be given by Sir Alfred Ewing, will be held on the evening of the opening day. Subjects for discussion include the suppression of noise, forestry, films as a cultural and educational force, deep-focus earthquakes, the electric propulsion of ships and the preparation and uses of statistics in business. Mr. R. Borlase Matthews will speak to Section G on the "Distribution and Utilization of Power from the Grid," and Sir W. M. Flinders Petrie will address Section H on "Copper and Bronze in Palestine." Lieutenant-Colonel Sir David Prain will give his presidential address to the conference of delegates from corresponding societies on "The Conservation of Wild Life in Relation to the Scheme for National Parks."

On Friday, Professor R. B. Forrester will deliver his presidential address to Section F on "Britain's Access to Oversea Markets," and Professor Miles Walker will give his to Section G on "The Call to the Engineer and Scientist." Another presidential address on this day will be to Section L by Mr. W. H. Heller on "The Advancement of Science in Schools: Its Magnitude, Direction and Sense." There will be a discussion on "Crop Production, with Special Reference to the Increased Use of Mechanical Power." In Section G, Mr. A. P. M. Fleming will give "An Engineer's Review of the Soviet Enterprise," and Dr. J. Burtt Davy will talk to Section K on "The Cricket Bat Willow."

Three sectional presidential addresses will be given on Monday. Professor P. G. H. Boswell will speak to Section C on "The Contacts of Geology: the Ice Age and Early Man in Britain." Professor B. Edgell's address to Section J will be on "Current Constructive Theories in Psychology," and Professor J. H. Priestley will discourse to Section K on "The Growing Tree." There will be a discussion on railway