Meetings and Societies

Molecules in Heavenly Bodies

The seventh International Astrophysical Symposium of Liege met 12–14 July in the University Auditorium. The subject of the colloquium was "Les Molecules dans les Astres." This colloquium was organized by P. Swings and his colleagues (Institute of Astrophysics, University of Liege). Harold C. Urey (University of Chicago) was president of the colloquium. Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions were held on the first two days, and two sessions were held on the last day.

The program was organized under four headings. These were (i) "Molecules in the solar system," with sessions devoted to the terrestrial atmosphere, the comets, the atmosphere of Venus, Mars, Jupiter, to generalities, and to the possibilities of life on other planets; (ii) "Molecules in the stars, observations," with sessions on the sun and stars; (iii) "Molecules in the stars, theory"; and (iv) "Recent laboratory work on molecules of astronomical interest," with sessions on molecules of particular interest to planetary and cometary studies and on molecules of particular interest in stellar studies. Outstanding introductory papers were given by A. McKellar (Canada), G. A. Tikhov (U.S.S.R.), K. Würm (Germany), R. Wildt (United States), and G. Herzberg (Canada) on various subjects of the colloquium. About 60 original communications were presented, and the attendance included persons from 19 countries.

V. Fassenkov presented two interesting moving pictures showing the Soviet expedition to study the eclipse of 25 Feb. 1952 and showing the four expeditions to far eastern Siberia between 1947 and 1950 to recover the Sikhote-Aline meteorite which fell there on 12 Feb. 1947. The pictures of the eclipse expedition showed the usual preparations for such expeditions. The moving picture of the meteorite expeditions was very impressive, especially when the methods of the expedition are compared with the more-than-casual way in which meteorite falls are explored in the United States. H. P. Broida of the U.S. Bureau of Standards showed a moving picture of the light flashes emitted when free radicals are trapped in solids at liquid-helium temperatures and the solid is allowed to warm up slowly. These were especially interesting to those members of the colloquium whose special interest is in comets.

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Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses

Eight hundred physicians, scientists, and health workers, including 140 from 53 foreign countries, participated in the first International Symposium on Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service and the World Health Organization. The meeting was held at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D.C., from 28 May through 1 June 1956.

During the 5-day meeting, 160 scientific papers were presented on control of the venereal and other treponemal diseases.

The 11 sections of the scientific program were (i) "Control of venereal diseases and the treponematoses in retrospect and prospect"; (ii) "Cultural and socioeconomic aspects"; (iii) "Nongovernmental organization support of venereal diseases and treponematosis control"; (iv) "Venereal disease education"; (v) "Natural history of syphilis"; (vi) "Experimental syphilis and/or treponematoses"; (vii) "Diagnosis, management, and prognosis of venereal diseases and treponematoses"; (viii) "Nontreponemal diseases"; (ix) "Epidemiology and control techniques"; (x) "Reporting and statistical problems"; and (xi) "Serology and immunology of the treponematoses."

The papers presented were interpreted simultaneously in French, Spanish, and English over a short-range radio system. Members of the audience were provided with individual receiving sets and earphones.

Roswell B. Perkins, Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, perhaps best expressed the feelings and aspirations of the large international assemblage when he said: "I want to congratulate the Public Health Service and the World Health Organization for their initiative in organizing this symposium. . . . There is unquestionably an inclination on the part of many to become complacent about diseases which can be controlled with new therapeutic agents. But this complacency on the verge of victory may cost us all our gains.

"This symposium represents, therefore, a recognition by you that our job has not been finished in any sense of the word, and a firm resolve to move forward."

A special issue of the Venereal Disease Program's annotated bibliography *Current Literature on Venereal Disease,* containing abstracts of the papers presented during the symposium, was distributed to each of the participants. The abstracts were published in English and Interlingua for the convenience of the foreign representatives. Copies of these abstracts can be obtained on request addressed to Dr. C. A. Smith, Chief, Venereal Disease Program, U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C.

Organizations that contributed to the success of the symposium included the International Union Against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses, American Social Hygiene Association, American Venereal Disease Association, Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, and the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology.

C. A. SMITH
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American Physical Society

The annual Washington, D.C., meeting of the American Physical Society brought together 1750 of the nation's physicists for 3 days, 26–28 Apr., to participate in 33 scheduled sessions and innumerable informal groups for the discussion of the most recent scientific advances. Washington has no single institution that can provide the eight simultaneous meeting rooms necessary for the presentation of some 400 papers—hence, the spectacle of a scientific meeting running simultaneously in the Sheraton-Park and Shoreham hotels and the U.S. National Bureau of Standards. Although this, of necessity, leads to conflicts and confusion, the assembled physicists reacted with their usual good-natured adaptability to make the meeting a success.

As the scientists were gathering, the president of the society, Eugene P. Wig-

ner, issued a statement concerning the national shortage of scientifically trained people in which he pointed out the following.

"Physicists are deeply concerned about this problem which comes to our attention by one occurrence or another almost every day. I believe that, on the whole, the science instruction at our universities and colleges is sound and is not surpassed by any other nation. The need and possibility for improvement on the elementary and secondary levels, in our grade schools and high schools, is being widely recognized. Higher salaries for our teachers is one important prerequisite toward this goal. We should adequately compensate those to whom we entrust the education of our children and who mold the future of our nation. However, we owe more to the teachers of our children than just a higher income. We should vigorously support their professional and technical associations, we should provide summer employment for them which is lucrative and which stimulates them to keep abreast of developments in the subject which they are teaching. Finally, we should remove as many of the unnecessary requirements for science teachers as possible. Book-learning of the methods of instruction cannot replace in a science teacher understanding of his subject and enthusiasm for science."

This year the society was fortunate in having technical addresses by our two 1955 Nobel laureates, P. Kusch and W. E. Lamb, and by distinguished foreign scientists from France, England, the Netherlands, and Italy.

The recent discovery of the antiproton led to speculations by C. E. Wiegand, one of its codiscoverers, on the existence of antimatter in other universes than our own and possible consequences of collisions of such universes. These speculations naturally attracted the popular attention of the press representatives that were present and, through them, the public-at-large.

The physicists who assembled for the banquet of the society had the satisfaction of seeing the John Scott medal and premium of the City of Philadelphia awarded to J. W. Beams for "his invention of the magnetically supported centrifuge." This was followed by a delightful and entertaining account of physics in the laboratory of Rutherford as seen by the present president of the British Physical Society, H. S. W. Massey, in his early years. It appears that the "master" believed firmly in getting away from the equipment to think things over, a point of view all too often neglected these days. On the same program, Arthur Roberts discussed, in a clear and thought-provoking way, the place and need in our national research activities for special conferences of limited attendance in specialized fields.

The traditional pattern of the meetings was broken by two innovations this year. For the first time, a headquarters room complete with a press-relations officer, secretarial service, and popularized news releases for important newsworthy papers, was provided for the press. It was well used with gratifying results. Also, for the first time, as an aid to planning future meetings, attendance statistics for the various sessions were recorded. This application of the experimental method confirmed the often-expressed opinion that the primary value of the meeting comes from the individual contacts among those attending. Most of the time, more people were involved in such "bull sessions" than were attending the formal technical sessions.

R. D. HUNTOON
National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.

Animal Reproduction

The third International Congress on Animal Reproduction (Physiology, Pathology, and Artificial Insemination) was held in the Arts School of Cambridge University during the last week of June 1956. Some 500 participants from more than 50 countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain attended the meetings and seemed to enjoy the rare privileges and atmosphere afforded by this exceptional academic community.

In addition to the three concurrent sessions of the main section of the congress, a number of plenary discussions were held: "The physiology of pre-natal life," "Nutrition in relation to reproduction," "Effect of very low temperature on cells and tissues," "Genital infection," and "Recent advances in artificial insemination techniques." The scope and range of these lectures make detailed reporting impossible, but two of the most memorable were the informative and sometimes philosophic presentations of A. S. Parkes on cold preservation of tissues and of E. C. Amoroso on comparative placental physiology. Fortunately, all the papers will soon be available for distribution by the efficient institution that was largely responsible for the successful organization of the congress, the Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton, Surrey, England.

The physiology section (40 papers) included many fundamental and new contributions—of little or no immediately practical import—as well as a scattering of more general review papers and some which necessarily dealt with problems of animal breeding and fertility. The few spirited discussions which involved physiologists, endocrinologists, biochemists, and veterinary specialists indicated not only the diversity of interests but also the wisdom of an occasional convocation of such a group as this. Subjects which received considerable attention included: the role of the hypothalamus in lactation, uterine motility, and estrus; testicular function in relation to nutritive, thermal, and exogenous steroidal factors; biochemistry of the male and female genital tracts in relation to sperm, egg, and blastocyst physiology; the significance of aerobic respiration of spermatozoa and eggs; apparent seasonal variations in sperm metabolism; the production and biochemistry of male and female antiagglutinins; and recent developments in attempts at fertilization *in vitro*.

The section on pathology (32 papers) was characterized by reports of various types of anatomical anomalies possibly associated with decreased fertility and by numerous contributions concerning the incidence and current control measures of *Vibrio fetus* and *Trichomonas* infections in domestic herds. The role of the corpus luteum and of the adrenal cortex in relation to reproductive activity received minor attention.

The sessions bearing directly and indirectly on artificial insemination (40 papers) concerned subjects which ranged from the organization of artificial insemination centers to a study of the transfer and storage of ova of sheep. The majority of the papers were rather narrowly confined to an evaluation of recent breeding results and of attempts to improve insemination procedures. The use of spermatozoa held at low temperatures (usually $-79°C$) was extensively discussed. Artificial insemination by means of previously vitrified and thawed sperm has been developed into a large-scale operation, as is evidenced, for example, by the fact that, in 1955, the Waterloo Cattle Breeders Association (Ontario) performed 47,000 inseminations with deep-frozen spermatozoa. Conception rates with this method approximate those after natural matings.

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Meeting Notes

■ A convocation to discuss the shortage of engineers and scientists will take place in New York, 8–9 Oct., under the sponsorship of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Participants include Howard L. Bevis, who recently retired as president of Ohio State University and who has been ap-

pointed by President Eisenhower to serve as chairman of the National Committee for the Development of Scientists and Engineers, and John Burchard, dean of humanities of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The meetings on 8 Oct. will be held at Cooper Union and will be open to all. The sessions will consider special problems related to leadership development in the fields of philosophy, education, architecture, design, and city planning. Each panel discussion will be led by an authority in the field.

The second day will be devoted to a full-scale discussion of the problem of what the American educational system can do in order to meet the future national need for engineers and scientists. Panelists will include the presidents of some of the nation's leading technologic colleges.

These meetings will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, and admittance will be by invitation. The morning and afternoon sessions will be devoted to panel discussions, with attendance limited to about 200 for each panel. The evening session will be held in the Starlight Room with an attendance of about 800 invited guests. Any scientist especially interested in attending the second-day sessions who has not received an invitation should communicate with Dr. Edwin S. Burdell, president of Cooper Union, who will provide invitations as long as they are available.

■ Under the chairmanship of Alexander Hollaender, director of the biology division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 20 scientists from nine countries met in Copenhagen, Denmark, 7–11 Aug., at a conference called by the World Health Organization to study the effects of radiation on human genetics, to recommend further research that might be needed, and to advise WHO on how it can most usefully assist in advancing and coordinating such research.

WHO organized this study group as part of its program on the public health aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In April of this year another group met in Geneva to discuss the related subject of radiological units and radiological protection.

One of the chief objectives of the Copenhagen meeting was to provide WHO with information on the gaps in existing knowledge of radiation effects in man. To insure the broadest possible approach to the problem, the group included radiologists, statisticians, and public health administrators as well as specialists in human and other branches of genetics. The group was in essential agreement with the findings concerning genetic effects of radiation in recent reports from the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and from the British Medical Research Council, and also with a resolution on radiation damage to human heredity adopted recently by the first International Congress on Human Genetics in Copenhagen.

A question to which the group devoted close attention was the need for accurate measurement and recording of exposures to radiation, in order to provide background information needed for analyzing the genetic effects. The experts learned that in one hospital where such recordings were started there had been a 30-percent reduction in the total exposure of the staff and some reduction in exposure of the patients. The group noted that the highest dose to the sex glands caused by natural radiation in geographic areas having a large population appeared to occur in parts of Travancore (India), where there are large deposits of monazite sand.

■ The ninth annual conference on Electrical Techniques in Medicine and Biology will be held in New York, 7–9 Nov. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together electrical engineers and physicians, biologists, electronics instrumentologists, radiation physicists, radiologists, and others, to discuss the latest electric and electronics techniques in biology and medicine, and to arrange symposia on current problems.

The conference is sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Radio Engineers, and the Instrument Society of America. In addition to members of the sponsoring societies, all persons having a professional medical, physical, or biological interest in electric therapeutic, diagnostic, or investigative techniques are invited to attend. There will be 2 days of technical

sessions, with an evening symposium on the first day, and a 1-day field trip to Brookhaven National Laboratory. For information, write to Mr. R. S. Gardner, AIEE, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18, N.Y.

■ A commemorative dinner to mark the silver anniversary of the founding of the Gordon Research Conferences will be held at the Hotel Commodore, New York, on 27 Dec. This date was selected to coincide with the AAAS annual meeting, which is scheduled for that same week in New York.

The principal speaker at the dinner will be Nobel prize winner Glenn T. Seaborg. His topic will be "The future through science." Reservations for the dinner, at $10 per person, may be made by writing to Dr. W. George Parks, Director, Gordon Research Conferences, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.

■ The Semiconductor Device Research Conference, an annual meeting by invitation, is sponsored by the Institute of Radio Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The conference, designed to permit the exchange of information in an informal atmosphere, is held at a different university each year. This year, from 25–27 June, the physics department of Purdue University was the host. This choice was particularly appropriate because of the extensive activities of Karl Lark-Horovitz and his colleagues in the semiconductor field.

Some 296 scientists from all parts of the United States and from England, Canada, Israel, Holland, and France attended the conference. The program included such subjects as new devices, device analysis, results of studies of the avalanche mechanism in silicon, surface studies, and diffusion.

The group was welcomed by F. L. Hovde, president of Purdue University, and was then addressed by Lark-Horovitz as chairman of the physics department. The cochairmen of the conference were A. E. Anderson of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, Allentown, Pa., and A. C. Sheckler of the General Electric Company, Syracuse, N.Y. R. Bray of the Purdue physics staff was local chairman.

Society Elections

■ Associação Brasileira de Química: pres., C. E. Nabuco de Araujo, Jr.; sec., William Zattar, Rua Lucio de Mendonca 44- Rio de Janeiro- Brazil; Representative to the AAAS Council is C. E. Nabuco de Araujo, Jr.

■ Poultry Science Association: pres., T. B. Avery, Kansas State College; 1st v. pres., H. R. Bird, University of Wisconsin; 2nd v. pres., J. H. Bruckner, Cornell University; sec.-treas., C. B. Ryan, Department of Poultry Science, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Tex.

■ American Psychological Association: pres., Lee J. Cronbach, University of Illinois; pres.-elect, Harry F. Harlow, University of Wisconsin; past-pres., Theodore M. Newcomb, University of Michigan; rec.-sec., Launor F. Carter, Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif.; exec.-sec., Roger W. Russell, 1333 16 St. NW, Washington 6, D.C.; treas., Carroll L. Shartle, Ohio State University.

Forthcoming Events

October

11–12. International Scientific Radio Union, U.S. National Committee, Berkeley, Calif. (J. P. Hagen, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25.)

11–13. Indiana Acad. of Science, Bloomington. (W. A. Daily, Eli Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis 6, Ind.)

12. Insulin, Glucagon, and the Oral

Hypoglycemic Sulfonylureas, 4th annual symp. on diabetes, New York, N.Y. (T. L. Kingsley, 270 Park Ave., New York 17.)

14–17. Society of American Foresters, Memphis, Tenn. (H. Clepper, SAF, 17th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington 6.)

14–19. American Acad. of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, annual, Chicago, Ill. (W. L. Benedict, 100 First Ave. Bldg., Rochester, Minn.)

14–27. Pan American Homeopathic Medical Cong., Mexico, D.F., Mexico. (R. W. Bohn, 60 Sutton Place South, New York 22.)

15–17. Assoc. of Official Agricultural Chemists, annual, Washington, D.C. (W. Horwitz, Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington 4.)

15–17. Soil Conservation Soc. of America, Tulsa, Okla. (H. W. Pritchard, SCSA, 1016 Paramount Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa.)

15–18. American Veterinary Medical Assoc., annual, San Antonio, Tex. (J. G. Hardenbaugh, AVMA, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.)

15–19. American Soc. of Civil Engineers, annual, Pittsburgh, Pa. (W. H. Wisely, ASCE, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

15–26. New York Acad. of Medicine, annual graduate fortnight, New York, N.Y. (Secretary, Graduate Fortnight, NYAM, 2 E. 103 St., New York 29.)

16–17. Agricultural Research Inst., 5th annual, Washington, D.C. (L. Voris, National Acad. of Sciences, NRC Annex, Washington 25.)

16–17. National Acad. of Economics and Political Science, Washington, D.C. (D. P. Ray, George Washington Univ., Washington 6.)

16–18. Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials, Boston, Mass. (T. O. Paine, Measurements Laboratory, General Electric Co., West Lynn, Mass.)

17–18. International Union of Therapeutics, cong., Paris, France. (A. Lemaire, 54, rue de Saxe, Paris 7.)

17–19. Symposium on Antibiotics, 4th annual, Washington, D.C. (H. Welch, Div. of Antibiotics, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25.)

18–19. Institute of Management Sciences, 3rd annual, Los Angeles, Calif. (C. M. Kelly, Litton Industries, Inc., 336 N. Foothill Rd., Beverly Hills, Calif.)

18–20. Optical Soc. of America, semiannual, Lake Placid, N.Y. (A. C. Hardy, Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Cambridge 39.)

19–20. Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, Washington, D.C. (A. B. Heagy, Assoc. State Chemist, Inspection and Regulatory Service, Univ. of Maryland, College Park.)

21–23. American College of Apothecaries, Dallas, Tex. (R. E. Abrams, Hamilton Court, 39th & Chestnut St., Philadelphia 4, Pa.)

21–27. Iberian-Latin American Cong. of Dermatology, 3rd, Mexico City, Mexico. (Centro Dermatológico Pascua, Calle Dr. Garciadiego 21, Mexico 7, D.F., Mexico.)

22–24. American Standards Assoc., 38th annual, New York, N.Y. (ASA, 70 E. 45 St., New York 17.)

22–25. American Soc. for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Louisville, Ky. (H. Hodge, Dept. of Pharmacology, Univ. of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.)

22–26. National Safety Cong., Chicago, Ill. (R. L. Forney, National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Ave., Chicago 11.)

22–27. Endocrine Soc., 8th annual postgraduate assembly, Houston, Tex. (Office of Dean, Univ. of Texas, Postgraduate School of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, Houston 25.)

22–2. Industrial Forestry Seminar, New Haven, Conn. (E. T. F. Wohlenberg, Industrial Forestry Dept., Yale Univ., New Haven.)

23. American Soc. of Safety Engineers, annual, Chicago, Ill. (J. B. Johnson, ASSE, 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11.)

25–26. National Soc. of Professional Engineers, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. (P. H. Robbins, 2029 K St., NW, Washington 6.)

26–27. Kentucky Academy of Science, annual, Richmond, Ky. (Mary E. Wharton, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.)

26–29. American Heart Assoc., annual, scientific sessions, Cincinnati, Ohio. (Medical Director, AHA, 44 E. 23 St., New York 10.)

27. Eastern Psychiatric Research Assoc., New York, N.Y. (T. R. Robie, 676 Park Ave., East Orange, N.J.)

28–1. American Council of Independent Laboratories, 29th meeting, New York, N.Y. (H. M. Dudley, 4302 East-West Highway, Washington 14.)

29–30. American Cancer Soc., scientific session, New York, N.Y. (ACS, Professional Education Section, 521 W. 57 St., New York 19.)

29–30. East Coast Conf. on Aeronautical and Navigational Electronics, 3rd annual, Baltimore, Md. (W. D. Crawford, Westinghouse Electric Corp., Air Arm Div., Friendship International Airport, Baltimore 27.)

29–31. Energy Resources Conf., Denver, Colo. (Energy Resources Conf., c/o Denver Chamber of Commerce, 1301 Welton St., Denver 4.)

29–1. Conference on Climatology sponsored by American Meteorological Soc., Asheville, N.C. (K. C. Spengler, 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.)

29–1. Society of Exploration Geophysicists, annual, New Orleans, La. (G. A. Grimm, Tide Water Associated Oil Co., Box 2131, Midland, Tex.)

29–2. Convention on Ferrites, Institution of Electrical Engineers, London, England. (Secretary, IEE, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2.)

31. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Minneapolis, Minn. (J. T. Gregory, SVP, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn.)

(See issue of 17 August for comprehensive list)