

Geophysical Union Forms Committee on Planetary Sciences

The executive committee of the American Geophysical Union has established a Planning Committee on Planetary Sciences which will consider expanding the activities of the American Geophysical Union to accommodate the interests of those of its members who are engaged in planetary and space research. The members of the committee include Homer E. Newell, Jr. (chairman), Robert Jastrow (secretary), Philip H. Abelson, Leroy R. Alldredge, J. W. Chamberlain, Thomas Gold, J. G. F. MacDonald, Hugh Odishaw, Allen Shapley, E. H. Vestine, Harry Wexler, and Charles A. Whitten.

In announcing the formation of the committee, Lloyd Berkner, the president of the American Geophysical Union, noted that the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, a publication of the AGU, is already one of the principal media for the formal communication of results in planetary physics. However, with the rapid expansion of research in the space sciences, it has become apparent to the officers of the union that the present structure of that organization does not offer adequate opportunities for the verbal presentation of contributed papers in the new areas. Therefore, the executive committee of the American Geophysical Union has authorized the formation of the Planning Committee on Planetary Sciences, whose responsibilities will include the organization of symposia and sessions of contributed papers in planetary physics. The planning committee will have authority to make whatever arrangements it deems necessary. The sessions on planetary physics will be added to the programs of the regular AGU meetings.

Sessions for April Meeting

According to Newell, the chairman of the committee, arrangements are being made to include sessions of contributed papers on planetary physics in the program of the April meeting, scheduled to take place in Washington, 27-30 April. The Planetary Sciences Committee plans to include sessions on sun-earth relationships, the interplanetary medium, meteorites, and the moon and planets.

The abstracts of papers to be presented in these sessions must reach the office of the committee secretary (Robert Jastrow, Theoretical Division, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center,

8719 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, Md.) no later than 1 March for inclusion in the advance program. Abstracts must not exceed 200 words in length. Abstracts received by 18 March will be accepted for presentation at the meeting but cannot be included in the advance program. An effort will be made to have them printed in a special program supplement, for distribution at the time of the meeting.

News Briefs

Lunik III to fall. Lunik III, the Russian rocket which photographed the far side of the moon, will re-enter the earth's atmosphere about 8 March, according to J. E. Michaels of General Electric's Missile and Space Vehicle Department in Philadelphia.

Wildflower pilgrimage. The department of botany at the University of Tennessee has announced that the tenth annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage will be held in the Great Smoky Mountains at Gatlinburg, Tenn., 28-30 April. The program, which is open to the public, offers illustrated lectures, wildflower and fern hikes, birds walks, and motorcades conducted by competent botanists and naturalists. For further information write to Department W.P., Post Office Box 208, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Carlson memorial. Concerted efforts to establish a lectureship in the name of the late Anton J. Carlson of the University of Chicago have been announced by Dwight J. Ingle, chairman of the university's department of physiology. Ingle has assumed responsibility for raising the necessary funds. Thus far, the appeal has been directed primarily to Carlson's friends and former students. Carlson's varied interests led him to make contributions in many areas, and the appeal is being extended to all individuals and groups who might welcome the opportunity to honor him through the university he served.

Fermentation. An International Symposium on Fermentation will be held in Rome, 9-14 May 1960. The symposium is sponsored by the Istituto Superiore di Sanita (Italian Institute of Public Health), the Italian Chemical Society, and the Fermentation Subdivision of the American Chemical Society. The sessions of scientific papers and panel discussions by invited participants are open to all interested scientists.

Subjects covered will include fermentation technology, fermentation chemistry, and fermentation biology. Inquiries should be addressed to: International Fermentation Symposium, Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Viale Regina Elena, 299, Rome, Italy.

Visiting professors. The Program of Visiting Professors of the American Astronomical Society has announced that 50 requests have been received. However, the National Science Foundation grant that supports the program provides for 80 visitors. For information communicate with: Franklyn M. Branley, American Museum-Hayden Planetarium, 81st St. and Central Park West, New York 24, N.Y.

Photobiology. The Comité International de Photobiologie will hold the third International Congress on Photobiology in Copenhagen, 31 July-5 August 1960. This congress will honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of Niels R. Finsen, who is recognized as the father of modern photo- and radiobiology, and will be called the Finsen Memorial Congress. The president of the International Committee on Photobiology is Alexander Hollaender, director, Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn. For information about the congress, write to the secretary general B. Buchmann, Biofysik Laboratorium, Juliane Mariesvej 30, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Scientific information. The Institute for Scientific Information has recently opened offices at 1122 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, Pa., for the purpose of conducting a program of publication, research, development, education, and service. Eugene Garfield is the director of the newly incorporated organization.

Gas dynamics. The second International Symposium on Rarefied Gas Dynamics will meet on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, 3-6 August 1960. The program will be similar in scope and purpose to that of the first symposium, which met in Nice, France, in July 1958. New developments in upper-atmosphere research and space flight will be discussed, as well as more basic scientific studies. Attendance at the symposium will be by invitation only. Further information may be obtained by writing Engineering and Sciences Extension, University of California, 2451 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.