

SCIENCE

24 December 1965

Vol. 150, No. 3704

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE



FLAME STRUCTURE



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by J. C. George and Andrew Berger

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24 December 1965
Vol. 150, No. 3704

SCIENCE

LETTERS	Osteopathy: <i>G. Grainger</i> ; Wiener's Word: <i>C. H. Fuchsman</i> ; <i>K. J. Ward</i> ; Looking Ahead: <i>F. C. Dyer</i> ; Messages from an Elder Scientist: <i>W. W. Konkle</i>	1666
EDITORIAL	President-Elect	1669
ARTICLES	Gravitational Collapse and the Death of a Star: <i>K. S. Thorne</i>	1671
	Genetic Transfer in Bacterial Mating: <i>J. D. Gross</i> and <i>L. Caro</i>	1679
	Health, Education, and Welfare: <i>J. W. Gardner</i>	1684
	Trends in Some Areas of Soviet Biomedical Research: <i>E. Simonson</i> and <i>J. Brožek</i>	1687
NEWS AND COMMENT	Don K. Price, Jr., President-Elect: <i>C. P. Haskins</i>	1690
	Rockefeller University: Changes Being Made—Anti-Missile Defense: Difficult Decision	1692
	<i>Report from Europe</i> : France in Space: Collaboration with Both U.S. and U.S.S.R.?; Jacques Monod: Further Comments on French Universities: <i>V. K. McElheny</i>	1700
BOOK REVIEWS	Microbiology and the Developing Areas: <i>C. B. van Niel</i>	1702
	<i>Flame Structure</i> , reviewed by <i>R. Friedman</i> ; other reviews by <i>F. Lipmann</i> , <i>A. Robinson</i> , <i>J. F. Masi</i> , <i>A. B. Gurney</i> , <i>J. E. Brooks</i> , <i>G. de Beer</i> , <i>C. W. Tombaugh</i> , <i>M. G. Smith</i> , <i>S. P. Maran</i> , <i>C. A. Reed</i>	1703
REPORTS	Electrostatic Aspects of Physical Adsorption: Implications for Molecular Sieves and Gaseous Anesthesia: <i>S. W. Benson</i> and <i>J. W. King, Jr.</i>	1710
	Clathrate Structure of Silicon $\text{Na}_8\text{Si}_{46}$ and $\text{Na}_x\text{Si}_{136}$ ($x < 11$): <i>J. S. Kasper</i> et al.	1713
	Mars: Radar Observations: <i>R. M. Goldstein</i>	1715
	Theory of Rotation for the Planet Mercury: <i>H.-S. Liu</i> and <i>J. A. O'Keefe</i>	1717
	Acheulian Occupation Sites at Torralba and Ambrona, Spain: Their Geology: <i>K. W. Butzer</i>	1718
	Artifact from Deposits of Mid-Wisconsin Age in Illinois: <i>P. J. Munson</i> and <i>J. C. Frye</i>	1722

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Immunodiffusion: Detection of a Murine Leukemia Virus (Rauscher): <i>M. A. Fink and C. A. Cowles</i>	1723
Acidosis: Effect on Lipolytic Activity of Norepinephrine in Isolated Fat Cells: <i>L. Triner and G. G. Nahas</i>	1725
Transhydrogenation in Root Tissue: Mediation by Carbon Dioxide: <i>I. P. Ting and W. M. Dugger, Jr.</i>	1727
Hydroxyurea: Differential Lethal Effects on Cultured Mammalian Cells during the Cell Cycle: <i>W. K. Sinclair</i>	1729
Visnagin: Biosynthesis and Isolation from <i>Ammi visnagi</i> Suspension Cultures: <i>B. Kaul and E. J. Staba</i>	1731
Food Safety Program: Endrin Monitoring in the Mississippi River: <i>A. F. Novak and M. R. R. Rao</i>	1732
Defensive Secretion of a Caterpillar (<i>Papilio</i>): <i>T. Eisner and Y. C. Meinwald</i>	1733
Lactate Dehydrogenase Isozyme Patterns of Human Platelets and Bovine Lens Fibers: <i>E. S. Vesell</i>	1735
Sex-Linkage of Erythrocyte Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase in Two Species of Wild Hares: <i>S. Ohno, J. Poole, I. Gustavsson</i>	1737
Polonium-210 Analyses of Vegetables, Cured and Uncured Tobacco, and Associated Soils: <i>K. C. Berger, W. H. Erhardt, C. W. Francis</i>	1738
Centrifugal Homogenizer: <i>J. H. Gregg</i>	1739
Classical Conditioning of Electric Organ Discharge Rate in Mormyrids: <i>F. J. Mandriota, R. L. Thompson, M. V. L. Bennett</i>	1740
Shaping and Discriminative Control of Underwater Click Vocalizations in a California Sea Lion: <i>R. J. Schusterman and S. H. Feinstein</i>	1743
Sleep: Effects of a Restricted Regime: <i>W. B. Webb and H. W. Agnew, Jr.</i>	1745
Humoral Mediation of Radiation-Induced Motivation in Parabiont Rats: <i>E. L. Hunt, H. W. Carroll, D. J. Kimeldorf</i>	1747
Technical Comments: Water Droplets: Rayleigh's Work: <i>P. B. Scott</i> ; Transfer of Learned Response by RNA Injection: Failure of Attempts to Replicate: <i>C. G. Gross and F. M. Carey</i>	1749

MEETINGS	Wool Research: <i>J. Menkart</i> ; Radiation and Terrestrial Ecosystems: <i>F. P. Hungate</i> ; The Education of Professional Physicists: <i>R. Geballe</i> ; Forthcoming Events	1750
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COVER

The candle is a complex flame whose microstructure has been studied by recently developed experimental techniques. Detailed measurements of the aerodynamic, thermal, and compositional history of the gases passing through flame fronts have been made. These studies have provided quantitative understanding of the physical and chemical processes in simple flames. See review of *Flame Structure*, page 1703. [Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University]

The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objects are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.

control and communication theory, whether in the machine or in the animal, by the name *Cybernetics*, which we form from the Greek κυβερνητης or *steersman*. In choosing this term, we wish to recognize that the first significant paper on feed-back mechanisms is an article on governors, which was published by Clerk Maxwell in 1868 [*Proc. Roy. Soc. (London)* March 5, 1868], and that *governor* is derived from a Latin corruption of κυβερνητης. We also wish to refer to the fact that the steering engines of a ship are indeed one of the earliest and best developed forms of feed-back mechanisms.

Many writers, Greek as well as French, French as well as Italian, must have used the word, since it appears to be a common word meaning the "steersman's art," and that phrase, while quaint today, must have been as commonly used as *navigation* or *driver training*. Calling *Duco Duco* or *Kodak Kodak* called for more imagination and commercial savvy and were genuinely coined, not merely borrowed. But what difference does it make? Words after all are, as Henry Ward Beecher said, "pegs to hang ideas on." And Wiener and his circle certainly succeeded in doing that.

KENNETH J. WARD
910 North Sheridan Road,
Lake Forest, Illinois

Looking Ahead

In arguing for greater support of gerontology, Robert R. Kohn (Letters, 5 Nov., p. 685) says, "Aging processes are . . . of more personal concern to us than, for example, mantle-drilling or the space program. . . ." And rightly so.

According to a story popular in Germany (East and West) during the 1950's, Gottwald was checking the budget one day, and the dialog with his advisers went about as follows:

"What's this? An addition of 100,000 marks for the grade schools? No. Denied. An addition of 500,000 marks for the advanced schools? No, denied."

His advisers handed him the next batch, and he continued:

"An increase of 300,000 marks for playgrounds and parks? No. Denied.

"Another 50,000 marks for libraries? No. No. No.

"Add 150,000 marks for children's hospitals and lying-in homes? Denied."

So it went. He cut every departmental budget until he came to the one for prisons.

"What's this? No increase for pris-

ons? The same budget as for last year? No. Double it! Allocate at least a million marks for prison hospitals, libraries, and recreation centers. And double the operating budget."

One of his advisers remonstrated, "But sir, you have cut all the other institutions, particularly the schools. Now why do you increase the budgets for the prisons?"

Gottwald stared at him meaningfully for a minute, then explained, "We've been to school."

As the man says, we can all expect to be aged. Shall we stint the plans for improving that condition?

F. C. DYER
4509 Cumberland Avenue,
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Messages from an Elder Scientist

. . . In his article on the development of the chemistry of solutions ("Order from chaos," 22 Oct., p. 441) . . . Joel Hildebrand delineates the difference between a true scientist and a mere practitioner. The one has schooled himself to understand; the other has devoted his academic life to learning all the recipes. Here is a message so vital to a beginning scientist that he hardly dare disregard it. . . .

The article carries also, by example rather than precept, a message about effective communication among scientists. It is replete with examples of communication at its best. Consider this statement from his discussion of scientific prediction: "The odds are extremely high for predicting an eclipse, . . . near zero for the time when John Doe will die." He might have written it this way: "Prediction of an eclipse can be accomplished with an extremely high degree of accuracy, but it should be noted that the probability factor changes considerably in the case of predicting the time at which life ceases for a human being." Naturally, the need for good communication becomes much more imperative when an elder scientist is trying to teach a younger one. The stuffed-shirt approach to science writing never inspired anyone. Yet how many elder scientists continue to expound their ideas in a writing style like that of a master's thesis. . . .

WARD W. KONKLE
Agricultural Science Review,
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3. 2.0 μA analyzed dc beam of He^+ ions. The previous maximum current routinely available has been 0.1 μA with the EN source.

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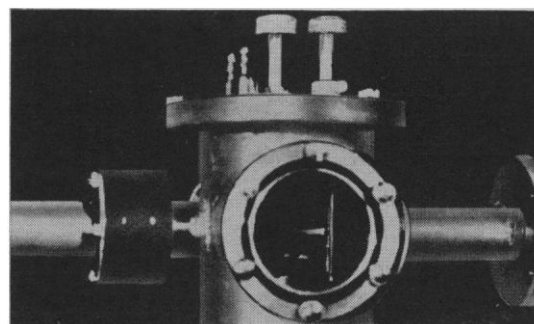
Components are now available for converting 3, 4 and 5 MeV machines to produce He^{++} ions at higher energies. Specifications: 30 μA at 5.0 MeV; 10 μA at 7.0 MeV; 5 μA at 10.3 MeV. More than double this current performance has been demonstrated but with some loss in stability and reliability. Multiple-charge states (2, 3 and 4) of neon, oxygen

and nitrogen have also been produced with the new kit installed in a 3 MeV Van de Graaff. Beam energies from 5.04 MeV to 9.8 MeV and beam currents from 0.1 to 10 μA were observed. For details on the new He^{++} kit and experimental results, write for Technical Note #13.

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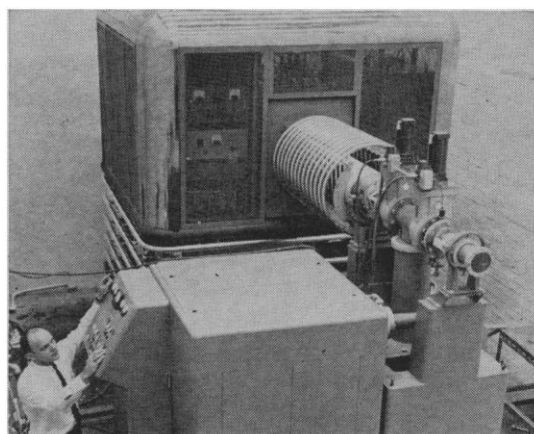
A nitrogen beam, 0.8 μA at 2 MeV, passes from right to left through a carbon foil approximately $9\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ thick.

of astronomical objects and the nature of the stellar energy. For further details, ask for Technical Note #10.

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In its 118-year history, the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been guided by men of the stature of Joseph Henry, Louis Agassiz, Ira Remsen, David Starr Jordan, A. A. Michelson, and Simon Flexner. Reflecting the composition of the Association, most of the presidents have been natural scientists. Only a few have been social scientists, the latest of these being the economist Wesley C. Mitchell, president in 1938.

The election of Don K. Price, a political scientist (page 1690, this issue), is thus a relatively rare event. The event takes on added significance when one considers the circumstances. The natural sciences do not lack for distinguished leaders of proven wisdom. The two candidates for the presidency were nominated by a committee well aware of the many other choices.

Responsibility for the affairs of the Association is vested in the Council, which elects the officers of the Association. The Council in turn is composed of about 470 members. Most of these are elected or appointed by the independent, affiliated societies; all major fields of science and a wide range of scientific interests are represented. The body that elected Mr. Price is a diverse and distinguished company. How could it happen that such a group could select a man of different background from its own? After all, there is a long tradition in human affairs that when the tribe selects a chief it chooses one of its members. I believe that part of the explanation lies in the special nature of AAAS and its membership. A selection process occurs at the time a person decides to become a member of AAAS. Those scientists whose interests are narrow see little reason for belonging to an organization of such diverse character. The act of joining is an act of tolerance and an expression of a wish to support efforts of broad significance. As set forth in its constitution, "The objects of AAAS are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare. . . ."

It is in the implementation of the third purpose that we can find a further explanation for Mr. Price's election. Science and technology have become crucial to our way of life. At the same time, there is increasing interaction between science and society at a multitude of interfaces. Of major importance now is the interface of science and government.

Dean Price has been the leading pioneer in the study of this interaction. He has wrestled with one of the central problems of our times: "How is science with all its new power to be related to our political purpose and values and to our economic and constitutional system?" Out of his labors have come books and articles, including several in *Science*. In his writing and in his conversations, Dean Price makes many perceptive comments. One of my favorites is found in his new book, *The Scientific Estate*. "The union of the political and scientific estates is not like a partnership, but a marriage; it will not be improved if the two become like each other, but only if they respect each other's quite different needs and purposes. No great harm is done if in the meantime they quarrel a bit."

In his articles in *Science* and in his 5 years of service on the board of directors of AAAS, Dean Price has made fine contributions toward bridging the gap between science and the humanities. It is good to know that the Council has seen fit to select him for even more demanding tasks.—P. H. ABELSON

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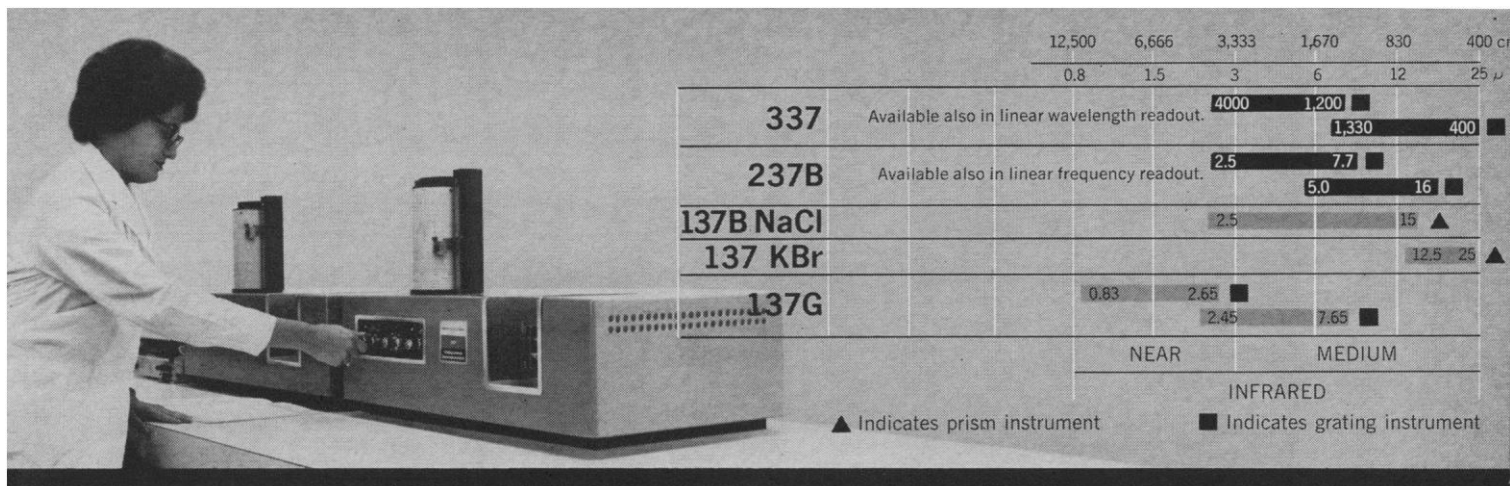
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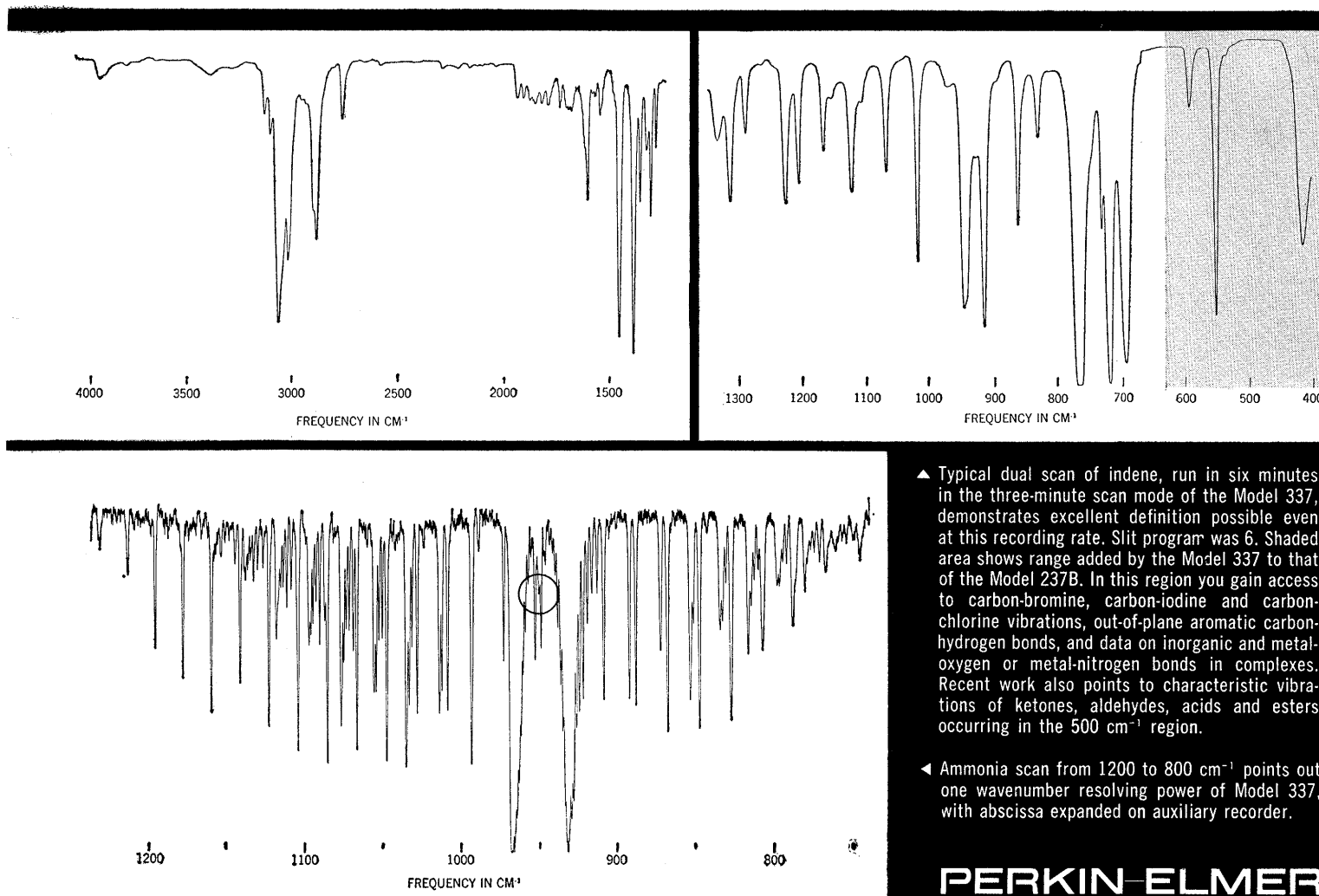
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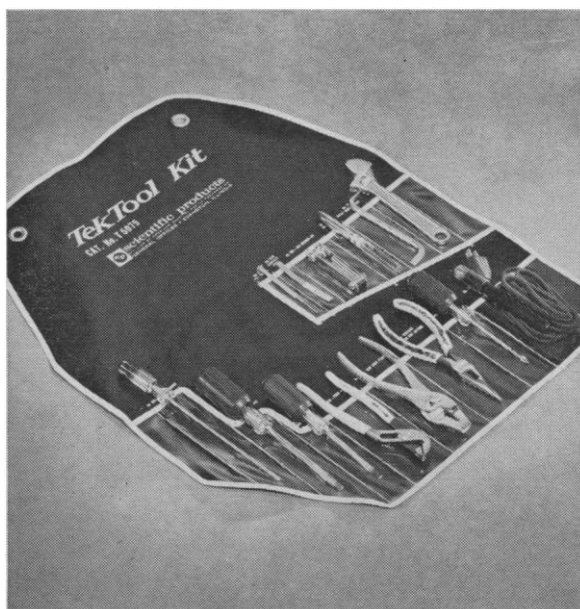


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levels of preparation and ability of the body of students for whom the curricula are intended, and the compatriots of the speaker appear to sit at ease. How can our system (or chaos) be as fairly presented? A description of the curriculum possible for one of our most selective institutions is inspiring and for this reason valuable. However, it does not answer the question asked in corridors afterward, what is typical in the United States? A proper answer to this question is important too; it is difficult enough to bridge the gaps between the United States and other countries.

For the purposes of this summary, it is noted that even an international conference supposedly devoted to the techniques for producing specialists in physics cannot get off the ground without a characteristic digression. Lord Beeching, in the opening talk, made a plea that physics take care to retain its role as a liberalizing subject. This theme, recurring in all physics curriculum conferences in the United States, was taken up by many commentators. Perhaps it is inaccurate to term it, or to think of it as, a digression.

The conference approved a number of resolutions. Education ministries and universities were asked to encourage further the interchange of students and teachers and to liberalize the formal requirements governing appointment of professors. Universities and their physics departments were asked to insure that broad education in science and mathematics precede specialization, that the attitudes characterizing recent developments in physics teaching, and science teaching more generally, be considered in the modernization of curricula, and that measures be taken to increase the contact between university physics departments and industrial and government laboratories. Finally, the conference called for a meeting of physicists and mathematicians to examine ways of using recent mathematical developments in all levels of physics education.

The circumstances surrounding the conference were handled with thoroughness and grace. The Organizing Committee, with M. R. Gavin as chairman, and Miss P. N. Boston as secretary, deserves the thanks of all, as does the group of British scientific and industrial organizations that provided financial support. In view of the large representation from the United States, and the well-known interest of

our scientific and educational agencies in promoting gatherings of this kind, one could not help but note the absence of United States sponsors.

The full proceedings of the conference are being compiled and edited by S. C. Brown and N. Clarke, and publication has been promised for 1966.

RONALD GEBALLE

Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle

Forthcoming Events

January

4-7. **Solid State Physics**, conf., Manchester College of Science and Technology, Manchester, England. (S. F. Edwards, Dept. of Physics, Victoria Univ. of Manchester, Manchester 13)

5-8. **National Soc. of Professional Engineers**, winter mtg., Bal Harbour, Fla. (NSPE, 2029 K St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006)

6-7. **Society for General Microbiology**, 45th general mtg., London, England. (P. H. Clarke, Biochemistry Dept., University College, Gower St., London, W.C.1)

6-10. **International Council of Scientific Unions**, 11th general assembly, Bombay, India. (Intern. Council of Scientific Unions, Via Sebenico 2, Rome, Italy)

7-8. **Surgical Research Soc.**, winter mtg., London, England. (A. P. M. Forrest, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Newport Rd., Cardiff, Wales)

10-13. **Radioactive Isotopes in Clinical Medicine and Research**, 7th intern. symp., Bad Gastein, Austria. (R. Hofer, Second Medical Univ. Clinic, Garnisongasse 13, Vienna 9)

11-12. **Man's Extension into the Sea**, symp. on SEALAB II, Washington, D.C. (T. Evans, Conference Management Organizer, Colonial Bldg., 105 N. Virginia Ave., Falls Church, Va. 22046)

12-14. **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in India**, symp., Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organization, Lucknow, India. (S. C. Datta, CIMPO, 4 Sapru Marg, Lucknow)

12-20. **International Fertility Assoc.**, Latin American mtg., Acapulco, Mexico. (M. Roland, 109-23 71st St., Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375)

13-14. **Body Fuel Utilization**, conf., Boston, Mass. (F. D. Moore, Dept. of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck St., Boston, Mass. 02115)

13-14. **Institute of Mathematical Sciences**, 4th Matscience anniversary symp., Madras, India. (C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer, Inst. of Mathematical Sciences, Madras)

13-16. **Indian Institute of Metals**, 19th annual mtg., Hyderabad. (The Institute, 31 Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 16)

16-21. **American Chemical Soc.**, winter mtg., Phoenix, Ariz. (ACS, 1155 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036)

17-19. **Labelled Proteins in Tracer Studies**, conf., Pisa, Italy. (Euratom, La-



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