News and Notes

International Physics Abstracting Service

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In June, 1949, Unesco called an international conference on the abstracting of scientific literature. Among the many recommendations included in the final report of this conference was one which suggested that, if possible, a single international physics abstracting journal be established. The members of the conference realized, however, that it would be unwise to set up such a new journal without first attempting to modify existing abstract journals so as to make them more international in scope. To carry out the specific recommendations of this conference with respect to physics, a Unesco subject committee in this field was established. This committee consists of:

Paul Bourgeois
G. A. Boutry
J. H. Awbery
Elmer Hutchisson — International Council of Scientific Unions

S. Whitehead
A. C. Menzies — The Committee of Management of *Science Abstracts*

Jean Wyart
G. Kersaint — Centre de Documentation du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

J. B. Reid (Unesco)

Ronald Fraser (Unesco/Icsu Liaison officer)

The first meeting of this committee was held in London, September 26 and 27, 1950.

To be really international a physics abstracting journal would need to carry either abstracts of which some would be in one language and some in another, or duplicate abtracts in more than one language. If one of the existing journals were modified to include abstracts partly in one language and partly in another, it is quite clear that the usefulness of this journal would be greatly decreased, especially among younger students who have not yet acquired facility with foreign languages. If abstracts were duplicated in several languages, each subscriber would receive material he would not use, and each individual's cost would be considerably increased.

In view of this situation the committee decided that a preferable idea would be to plan an international abstracting "service" rather than a single international journal. In this international service there would be several editions, each in a separate language and, wherever possible, existing journals would constitute the official editions. For example, *Physics Abstracts* could be considered the English edition, and the *Bulletin Analytique* would constitute the French edition. Under this proposal each journal would retain a measure of its own individuality and yet be part of the international plan. The committee recommended further that this service be established under the general sponsorship of either the International Conference of Scientific Unions (Icsu) or the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (Iupap). With such sponsorship it is hoped that possibly the *Physikalische Berichte* could be brought into the same international scheme, and, if a Spanish or Russian abstracting journal were started, they might also follow the same pattern.

The definite improvements which it is hoped may be achieved through this proposal are:

1. The inclusion of an author's abstract prepared essentially in accordance with the Royal Society rules with each original research paper.
2. The sending of the author's abstract in page-proof stage by air mail to the abstract editor in the corresponding language—i.e., physics journals in English would send abstracts to *Physics Abstracts*, journals in the French language to the *Bulletin Analytique*, etc.
3. Abstract editors would, by mutual agreement, exchange abstracts, thus decreasing lag in publication time of abstracts and assisting each abstract journal in obtaining wider coverage.
4. Increased cooperation among abstract editors to obtain the most efficient classification and indexing methods.
5. Increased international cooperation through the sponsorship of this abstract service by Icsu or Iupap.

The recommendations of this Unesco committee are to be transmitted to Icsu and, if adopted, a mechanism will be set up to put the international abstracting service into operation. Pending this action the editors of *Physics Abstracts* and the *Bulletin Analytique* are collaborating to facilitate their editorial work and to improve the efficiency of their journals without, at this time, changing their internal structure.

About People

A recent visiting scholar at the University of Delaware, and guest of the Department of Biological Sciences, was **Anton J. Carlson,** Frank P. Hixon distinguished service professor of physiology (emeritus) at the University of Chicago. While at the university he inspected instruction and research activities and held informal conferences with staff members and graduate students in the department.

A. S. D'Amore, chief of the Department of Surgery at the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph AFB, has been named base surgeon for Langley AFB, Virginia. Formerly chief of surgery at the Air Force school, he was the first medi-

cal officer to serve with paratroopers and the second medical officer to qualify for the Parachute Badge.

Ralph I. Dorfman has been appointed associate director of laboratories and member of the research staff of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology. Dr. Dorfman, who has been associate professor of biochemistry at Western Reserve University, will join the Worcester Foundation staff on January 1, and will take charge of research projects concerned with steroid hormone metabolism.

William A. Hamor, assistant director of Mellon Institute, has been named by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society to receive its Pittsburgh Award for 1950. The award, a bronze plaque that is granted annually for outstanding service to chemistry, will be presented to Dr. Hamor at a dinner in the University Club of Pittsburgh on December 21. Dr. Hamor is a member of the Scientific Personnel Committee of the AEC and the Scientific Manpower Branch of the Department of the Army, General Staff. He is also a member of the Research Advisory Council of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America.

Walter H. Hodge, of the Department of Botany, University of Massachusetts, has been granted a leave of absence to serve as plant explorer for the Division of Plant Introduction, USDA. He will go to South Africa to search for species of higher plants yielding cortisone precursor compounds.

George Taylor has been appointed to the keepership of the Department of Botany in the British Museum of Natural History to succeed **J. Ramsbottom.** In 1934–35, Dr. Taylor was joint leader of the museum's expedition to Ruwenzori and the mountains of East Africa, and in 1938 he visited the Tsangpo Himalaya in southeastern Tibet to make botanical collections for the museum. His work has been mainly on flowering plants.

Visitors

The National Bureau of Standards recently entertained the following visitors from abroad: **G. Abetti,** Royal Observatory of Arcetri, Florence; **Yuichiro Aono,** Ionospheric Propagation Section, Engineering and Monitoring Division, Japanese Radio Regulatory Agency, Tokyo; **M. H. Muller,** Silk Testing House, Zurich; **H. L. Bredée,** Algemene Kunstzyde Unie, Arnhem, Netherlands; **Jean Duval,** of the Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR), Paris; **L. Herman,** Section d'Astrophysique, Observatoire de Paris, Meudon; **Rudolf Signer,** Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, University of Berne; **Magdalena A. Templa,** Institute of Science, Manila; **Harold M. Glass,** British Standards Institution, London; **Charles Manneback,** University of Louvain; **Louis van den Berghe,** Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Central (IRSAC), Costermansville, Belgian Congo; **Eugene van Dyck** and **J. A. van der Donckt,** Bell Telephone Manufacturing Co., Antwerp; **B. G. Churcher** and **F. R. Perry,** High Voltage Laboratory, Metropolitan-Vickers, Manchester, England; **H. Rinia, F. M. Penning,** and **E. W. Gorter,** Philips Research Laboratory, Eindhoven, Netherlands; **Masanori Sato,** Industrial Research Institute, Osaka; **M. Okada,** Department of Welding Engineering, Osaka University; **T. Ono,** Department of Civil Engineering, Nihon University, Tokyo; and **G. Yoshimoto,** Polytechnical Institute, Osaka University.

R. Tavernier, of the University of Ghent, and director of the Belgium Soil Survey, spoke at the recent meeting of the Soil Science Society of America, in Cincinnati, in his role as president of the International Society of Soil Science. He is studying soils and research methods with scientists of the Division of Soil Survey, USDA, and visiting several research institutes in the East and Middle West.

Peter Martinovitz, of the University of Belgrade Medical School, gave a series of lectures during the first part of November on whole organ culture. Dr. Martinovitz is engaged in studies on the whole organ culture of the adrenals and the anterior pituitary.

Grants and Awards

Research grants amounting to $36,200 have been received by the recently expanded Department of Chemistry, **Florida State University,** Tallahassee. The Office of Naval Research has granted Karl Dittmer, head of the department, $12,300 to study the structural bases of metabolite antagonists. The Research Corporation has granted Ernest Grunwald $5,000 for studies of solvation energies in polar solvents, and Werner Herz $3,500 for research on the reduction of ketoepoxides. Earl Frieden has been granted $4,800 by the National Institutes of Health for an investigation of the biochemistry of amphibian metamorphosis. The National Institutes of Health is also supporting a study of the mechanism of amino acid antagonism with $8,100 under the direction of Karl Dittmer. A grant-in-aid of $2,500 for the preparation of amino acid antagonists for cancer studies has been made to Karl Dittmer by the Sloan-Kettering Foundation.

A research grant for investigation of a genus of fungi and its antibiotic properties has been made to the Pharmaceutical Foundation of the University of Texas by Sharpe & Dohme. Studies will be directed by Henry M. Burlage, dean of the College of Pharmacy.

The Johns Hopkins University has awarded its new **Charles F. Kettering fellowship** to Gabriel de la Haba, a young Puerto Rican biologist who is doing research in the field of micronutrients. Dr. de la Haba is investigating the problem of how plants and microorganisms make use of inorganic nitrogen compounds, such as nitrates, nitrites, and ammonia, and utilize or transform them into more complex nitrogen compounds, such as amino acids.

The Council Award, highest honor bestowed by the Wisconsin State Medical Society, has been awarded to Armand J. Quick, director of the

Department of Biochemistry at Marquette University School of Medicine. Cited for his attainments in the science and art of medicine and surgery, and for his service to humanity, Dr. Quick is well known for his extensive research in the field of blood coagulation and hemorrhage.

Fellowships and Prizes

The American Institute of Nutrition is accepting nominations for the **B Complex Award** of $1,000 established by Mead Johnson and Company to promote research on B complex vitamins. The award will be given to the laboratory or clinical research worker in the U. S. or Canada who has published the most meritorious report on the subject in 1950. Nominations should be sent to E. E. Snell, Department of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin. **The Borden Award in Nutrition** for research emphasizing the nutritive significance of components of milk or dairy products consists of $1,000 and a gold medal. Nominations should be sent to Hazel K. Stiebeling, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. **The Osborne and Mendell Award** of the Nutrition Foundation, Inc., is for accomplishments in the general field of exploratory research in nutrition. Nominations for the $1,000 award are open to research workers in the U. S. and Canada and investigators from other countries. Chairman of the nominating committee is Robert V. Boucher, Pennsylvania State College. Nominations and data on the accomplishments of the nominees for each award must be sent to those indicated above by *January 1, 1951.*

The Public Health Service is offering 122 one-year rotating internships in 11 of its U. S. Marine Hospitals, to begin *July 1, 1951.* These are open to graduates of approved medical schools, and appointments are made on a competitive basis, according to the Uniform Intern Placement Plan. Applicants must qualify for a commission as assistant surgeon in the Reserve Corps of the USPHS, and must express intent to serve for a year after completion of internship. Applications and further information may be obtained from USPHS, Federal Security Agency, Washington 25, D. C.

The **Charles A. Coffin Fellowships** in electricity, physics, and physical chemistry, and the **Gerard Swope Fellowships** in industrial management, engineering, the physical sciences, and other scientific and industrial fields, are again offered by the General Electric Education Fund, and applications are being accepted for 1951–52. Grants up to $1,500 annually will be made to college graduates who wish to continue individual study and research in these fields. Grants of $500 are available for specific apparatus or other research expense. Applications may be obtained from the libraries of engineering schools, department heads and professors in electrical and mechanical engineering, physics, chemistry, and metallurgy, and deans of graduate schools, and must be sent to the Secretary, General Electric Company Education Fund, Schenectady, N. Y., by *January 1.*

Colleges and Universities

The following scientists recently joined the staff of the **Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory,** Silver Spring, Md.: Everette J. Hardgrave, Hugh E. Riordan, Ronald E. Bowles, Robert E. Dye, Wayne A. Fey, William J. Keck, Paul D. Ulm, Herbert Ruderfer, Michael Shandor, Fergus J. Wood, Daine C. Maxwell, Morris Ribner, Thelma Jo Noble, Ira B. Mullis, Willard C. Reynolds, Harold B. Coleman, Wentworth Wilder, Jr., Cloyd Marvin, Pierre A. Portmann, François N. Frenkiel, Herbert Deresiewicz, Schubert A. Stricklett, and Rodney Morison.

The first non-AEC owned and operated nuclear reactor in the U. S. will be built by the **Consolidated University of North Carolina,** using nuclear fuel loaned by the AEC. The proposed reactor, which will provide facilities for nuclear engineering research and education, will be located on the campus of the North Carolina State College, Raleigh. Present design calls for a low-power reactor having a maximum power level of 10 kw, which will use enriched fuel containing not over one kg of fissionable uranium 235. The reactor will be housed in a special laboratory building to be erected with a fund of $200,000 that has been provided by the Burlington Mills Foundation. The North Carolina reactor will be a "water boiler" type, similar to one that has been in operation at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory since 1944.

The Postgraduate Division of the **University of Texas Medical Branch,** Galveston, announces four postgraduate courses on medical preparedness for atomic warfare. These will be held on December 15 and 16, in Corpus Christi, January 12 and 13, at Tyler, February 2 and 3, at El Paso, and February 16 and 17, at Lubbock. A preliminary session is being held this month for the Galveston–Houston–Beaumont area. The course will include material on organization for medical preparedness, principles of handling and sorting casualties, field dressing, diagnosis and treatment of burns, traumatic injuries, and radiation sickness, and the collection and preservation of necessary supplies. Speakers will be drawn from the staff of the Medical Branch, and will include experts in the biological effects of radiation and surgical specialists in the treatment of burns and traumatic injury.

A two-day program held October 13 and 14 marked the closing of the centennial celebration of the **Woman's Medical College,** Philadelphia. Detlev W. Bronk, president of The Johns Hopkins University, moderated a symposium on premedical education at which the following spoke: A. V. Hill, Foulerton professor of the Royal Society and Nobel Laureate; George W. Corner, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution, Baltimore; Katharine E. McBride, Bryn Mawr College; and Donald Ramsey Young, Russell Sage Foundation. The convocation dinner was addressed by Capt. Charles F. Behrens, director, Atomic Defense Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy Department, and Medical Officer in Command of the Naval Research Institute, National Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Willard Cole Rappleye, dean, College of Physicians and Surgeons, gave the convocation address and the following received honorary degrees: Alice Hamilton, Elise L'Esperance, Florence Seibert, Florence Rena Sabin, Marian Anderson, Detlev W. Bronk, Katharine McBride, and Marion Fay.

Discovery that disease-generating organisms known as PPLO (pleuropneumonialike organisms) are to be found in the saliva, throat cultures, and stools of human beings has been made by investigators in medical laboratories at the **University of Pennsylvania.** According to Harry E. Morton, Paul R. Leberman, and Paul Francis Smith, who conducted the research, this is the first recorded instance of PPLO having been isolated from the human body outside the genito-urinary tract. The significance of the discovery is that further investigations may lead ultimately to findings of importance in the field of infectious diseases. The organisms approach the filtrable viruses in size, and are at about the limit of visibility in modern microscopes which employ light for illumination. These factors may explain the many failures to recognize them as possible causes of infections in humans.

Meetings

The University of Texas at Austin will be host to the annual meeting of the southwestern section of the **American Association for Cancer Research** on December 8.

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers will hold its 43rd annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, December 3–6. Seven symposia will cover such topics as ultrasonics, chemical engineering in the glass industry, phase equilibria, processing of viscous materials, and air-pollution control.

G. H. Laramie, of the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, was elected president of the **Association of Seed Control Officials** of the northeastern states, at the group's second annual meeting, held November 8 at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. He succeeds A. Warren Clapp, of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Other officers elected were: vice president, P: M. Eastman, of the New York State Department of Farms and Markets; and secretary-treasurer, John L. Clough, of the Delaware State Board of Agriculture. Officials representing nine of the northeastern states and Washington, D. C., attended the meeting, during which much of the discussion centered around the proper qualifications for candidates for seed inspection positions. A tentative list of standards for such posts was drawn up by the group.

Marvin Fisher, Jr., M. Stanley Helm, and Max A. Faucett, speaking at the fall meeting of the **American Institute of Electrical Engineers** in the Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City, told how to combat light flickering caused by electric welding machines. They reported that the University of Illinois Engineering Experiment Station will soon issue a bulletin with tables from which power engineers can quickly compute the size of wires and amount of current needed to prevent the flicker. The solution was worked out in a cooperative research project of the university and the Utilities Research Commission of Chicago.

The American Statistical Society will hold its 110th annual meeting at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, December 27–29. The program includes joint meetings with the American Association of University Teachers of Insurance, American Economic Association, American Farm Economic Association, American Finance Association, American Marketing Association, American Psychological Association, American Public Health Association, American Society for Quality Control (Chicago section), Association for Computing Machinery, Biometric Society (ENAR), Econometric Society, Industrial Relations Research Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Population Association of America, and the Psychometric Society. Reservations should be sent to Daniel Amico, Congress Hotel, Chicago 5.

In the Laboratories

A new $10,000 rubber research laboratory has been established at **Armour Research Foundation** of Illinois Institute of Technology. Specific projects now in progress include custom compounding of rubber stocks for specialized uses and a basic study of new types of petroleum oils and resins in the compounding of rubber. Alfred G. Susie, supervisor of rubber and plastics research at the foundation, said that a staff of rubber specialists will work with both crude-natural and synthetic rubbers. "The retraction or 'snap-back' quality of uncured rubber is very limited," Dr. Susie explained. "By proper compounding, we can not only improve the retraction qualities but also build in a resistance to heat build-up, abrasion, ozone, strain, etc."

The first antibiotic animal feed supplement, Bi-Con TM-5, containing terramycin, has been announced by **Chas. Pfizer & Co.** Extensive tests carried out by scientists at various state colleges, particularly at Washington State and Iowa State, and in Pfizer's laboratories have shown that certain antibiotic residues promote growth of chickens, turkeys, and swine. The "broad spectrum," or wide-range antibiotics, such as terramycin, were shown to be relatively more effective in animal nutrition than such antibiotics as penicillin and streptomycin.

A general research laboratory, to handle chemical, microscopical, and physical work on problems of cement and cement manufacture, is being established at the Des Moines, Iowa, plant of the **Marquette Cement Manufacturing Co.,** to be under the general supervision of technical director C. E. Wuerpel. New personnel recently added to staff this laboratory include Charles U. Pierson, Jr., formerly with the Portland Cement Association, who will be chief research assistant to Wuerpel; Erwin C. Hoeman, formerly on the technical staff of Battelle Memorial Institute, who will be research chemist; and assistant research chemist, William E. Woody, graduate chemical engineer from Iowa State College.