

Scientific Meetings

Abstracting Board of International Council of Scientific Unions

On 20 June 1949, an international conference met in Paris, at the seat of UNESCO; it had been organized by the Department of Natural Sciences of UNESCO (P. Auger, director) and was convened to deal with problems connected with scientific abstracting. Most of these problems were dealt with and were mentioned in the recommendations listed in the final act. One emphasized the importance of establishing good cooperation between existing scientific abstracting services and proposed the creation of coordinating committees; another urged that all original articles appearing in scientific journals should begin or end with an author's abstract (synopsis) prepared according to a set of rules published by the Royal Society; and another recommended the publication of a single international general abstracting journal for physics and cognate sciences (astrophysics, engineering, geophysics).

This proposal for the establishment of a single international journal of physics abstracting, preferably bilingual (English and French being used in a single edition), originated in the fact that at the time, international cooperation seemed to have in physics abstracting a simpler and more promising starting point than anywhere else in the vast field of scientific documentation: only two journals existed to cover the whole field of physical sciences and shared between them the international clientele of professional physicists; the possibility of an agreement between them to merge into a single international publication had been enthusiastically considered by the subcommittee that drafted the recommendation; the possible disadvantage of bilingualism seemed an inexpensive and acceptable mutual concession, a step on the main road to international good will. The objections of a few experienced delegates had little influence on the final wording of the recommendation, which was passed and published in the final act in the atmosphere of agreement that always surrounds the voting of counsels of perfection.

On 26 June 1949, the follow-up of the three afore-mentioned recommendations

was discussed at a meeting organized by the International Union of Physics, and it was suggested that a joint commission be formed by ICSU to discuss this problem. This was done and the joint commission met for the first time in Paris on 20 Dec. 1949. It was soon decided that the editors of the principal reviews publishing original articles in physics throughout the world should be asked to state whether their journals agreed to publish synopses of all original articles, in English or in French, and whether the editor would accept the responsibility of examining the synopses to make sure that they were drafted in accordance with the Royal Society's rules. But a fact of fundamental nature had been overlooked: no abstracting journal of any kind was represented as such on the joint commission. Unanimous in its appreciation of the fine work done by both *Science Abstracts* and the *Bulletin Analytique*, the joint commission felt that the necessary improvements and enlargements could be discussed only in the presence of persons representing the interests and the spirit of these journals. A meeting of editors and users of abstracts was thus organized in London in September 1950.

During this meeting a vital change took place in the spirit in which the whole problem had been considered before: at the opening of the discussions, this had been theoretical and didactic; when the meeting closed, it had become constructive and realistic, and it was concluded that the publication of such a bilingual journal of abstracts as recommended by UNESCO was to be conceived perhaps as an ultimate goal that could not be reached within a measurable time. Cooperation must therefore proceed along other lines. At the close of the proceedings the main ideas that were to govern the future attitude of all persons concerned were as follows: All leading periodicals publishing original papers in physics should undertake to publish authors' summaries prepared according to rules set forth by the Royal Society and UNESCO; these summaries should be printed in English or French; an exchange of proofs or clippings of the synopses should be established; the editors should cooperate and remain in close

contact to speed up and increase the efficiency of their work, and a responsible permanent international organization should be able to help them.

Let us pause to consider what progress had been made and in which direction. To be short and schematic, the spirit of the whole undertaking had been changed. In 1949, a gathering of physicists explained to editors of abstracting journals how they should do their work; a year after almost the same persons addressing the same editors were asking "What can we do to help you?" In 1949, it was thought that a single international abstracting journal should be founded in the near future, and it was hoped that the existing reviews would be content to merge into this new undertaking. In 1950, it was recommended that two independent journals be helped in their work by an international organization. It was realized that physics abstracting was an important asset in the scientific world and that it could and should be improved.

At the next meeting of the joint commission, it was decided to dissolve it and to constitute a Board for the International Abstracting Service. This was done, and the board, maintained by funds originating from UNESCO and ICSU and controlled by ICSU, was constituted and began operation on 1 June 1952. It obtained legal personality in Belgium by an Arrete Royal dated 3 Nov. 1953. On 1 Nov. 1953, *Physikalische Berichte* was admitted as the third member-journal for the German language.

What has the ICSU Abstracting Board done for physics and for its member-journals?

Authors' summaries. With the exception of a very few publications, all periodicals carrying original articles on physics and published in the U.S.A., U.K., Canada, Australia, Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Italy have agreed to publish authors' summaries written according to the rules approved by the Royal Society and UNESCO. The editor responsible has agreed to see to it that the summaries prepared sum up correctly and clearly the substance of the papers. In many instances, this supervision has been so thorough that the member-journals print these summaries *verbatim*, thereby saving the delay of abstract revision. All summaries printed in the countries listed here are printed either in French or in English (or both). The same result continues to obtain in Scandinavia and Germany and has recently been extended to Japan.

Proofs, clippings, microfilms. Fifty-five journals printed in the U.K., U.S.A., Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Japan, and the U.S.S.R. send to the board or its associates, generally by air mail, either complete page proofs

or (in a few cases) clippings of authors' summaries. When these documents are received in only one copy, this is micro-filmed or photocopied in order that all member-journals may be served.

Russian literature in physics. In 1954, the ICSU Abstracting Board got in contact with the director of the Institute of Documentation of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, D. Panov. It was agreed to exchange proofs of the six most important Russian journals of physics and the eight second in importance. This exchange started in February 1955. The proofs arrive in Paris where the Russian literature is microfilmed and sent on in this form to the editors of the member-journals.

Upon the request of the American Institute of Physics, which contemplated publishing the literal translation of one or more of the important journals of physics, the board instituted an inquiry in 12 European countries to assess the feasibility of this scheme. The results were communicated to the American Institute of Physics, which announced the publication, beginning 1 Nov. 1955, of a full English translation of the Russian *Journal of Theoretical and Experimental Physics*.

Acting jointly with the Publications Committee of IUPAC, the Board also helped to organize the work of publishing review articles describing the activities and progress of the principal schools of research in physics of the U.S.S.R. and other Slavonic-speaking countries. Two supplementary numbers of *Il Nuovo Cimento* have already appeared.

Classification. The UDC classification in physics is now undergoing revision. This move, urged by this board since 1952, has originated in the Federation Internationale de Documentation. The board and the Publications Commission of IUPAP have joined forces to cooperate on this revision, and both are represented on the FID special committee by the editor of one of the member-journals. The new classification will be used uniformly by all member-journals of the board.

Nonperiodical publications. To facilitate abstracting work in this field, the editor of each member-journal is now dealing with nonperiodical publications of a group of countries and directs the attention of his fellow-editors to those publications that he considers of interest to physicists.

The board asked IUPAP to impress upon organizers of congresses and colloquia the importance of providing proper means of publication of the proceedings of these meetings, preferably in recognized journals and, if they issue special reports, to send these publications to the board to insure thorough and competent abstracting.

Chemistry. ICSU authorized the ex-

ension of the board's activities to chemistry in October 1954, and IUPAC recommended the candidatures of *Chemical Abstracts* and the *Bulletin Analytique* as member-journals for chemical abstracting in English and in French, respectively. These journals were unanimously elected to the board. The Zurich and Heidelberg meetings defined the ways and means of the new undertaking. Work has begun, and the editors of a select number of important chemical journals are already being communicated with, with a view to organizing page-proofs exchange between members for chemistry.

UNESCO, from the first days, has continually supported the new service. The growth of the ICSU Abstracting Board has been slow, chiefly because of the necessary prudence that has always governed its action. Also, this venture in international cooperation involved a great deal of work that had to be done with limited means, and it was a new undertaking. The members of the board had to demonstrate to all parties concerned the possibility and utility of the enterprise. From the fact that, in the wake of IUPAC, the International Union of Mechanics and the International Union of Biology have expressed interest in the board's work, it may be deduced that this demonstration is now complete. The problem still remains of how to deal successfully with the large increase of work arising from the new activity in chemistry. Also, other means of support, perhaps, should be provided. From many quarters, satisfaction has been expressed about the work done and the results obtained. Has it been realized everywhere that these involved much time and effort, freely granted by men whose reward was the promotion of international good will?

G. A. BOUTRY, *Secretary
International Council of Scientific
Unions, Paris, France*

Meeting Notes

■ On 25 Jan. the first meeting of a new medical society, the Western Association of Physicians, was held under the presidency of Robert H. Williams, professor of medicine at the University of Washington. The objectives of the society are to provide meetings for persons with an established, active role in clinical research. Experimentation will be conducted with different types of scientific reports. Participants will present not only their recent investigations but also summaries of progress in their respective fields.

The scientific programs for the Western Association of Physicians, for the Western Society for Clinical Research, and for the Western Section of the

American Federation for Clinical Research are to be integrated. The officers of the association for 1956-57 are Maxwell M. Wintrobe, professor of medicine, University of Utah; v. pres., T. L. Althausen, professor of medicine, University of California; sec.-treas., Joseph F. Ross, associate dean and professor of medicine and radiobiology, University of California College of Medicine at Los Angeles.

■ The department of plant sciences of Syracuse University will hold a conference on extraneous matter in foods on 16 Apr. The speakers and their topics will be as follows: J. E. Despaul, "Penetration of protective coverings by insects"; R. Fogler, "The sap beetle—its habits and possible control measures in sweet corn"; K. L. Harris, "Role of microscopic analysis in food and drug control"; F. B. Thatcher, "Recovery of insect fragments from flour: a modification useful for survey purposes, and some correlation with other factors"; and R. Cory, "Use of semipermanent mounts in sanitation collaborative work" (to be read by J. Monier).

The meeting has been arranged for food sanitarians, laboratory microanalysts, and others engaged in the protection of foods. Those planning to attend should notify Dr. J. D. Wildman, Department of Plant Sciences, 209 Lyman Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse 10, N.Y.

■ Thirty-two science teachers from schools in seven western states will receive \$200 fellowships for the 1956 West Coast Science Teachers Summer Conference, which will be held 17-30 June at Oregon State College. The conference will be cosponsored by the Future Scientists of America Foundation of the National Science Teachers Association, Oregon State College, and the Crown Zellerbach Foundation, San Francisco, Calif.

Teachers of any science course in grades 7 through 12 in the schools of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona are eligible to apply for a fellowship. Application forms may be obtained from the Future Scientists of America Foundation, National Science Teachers Association, 1201 16 St. NW, Washington 6, D.C.

■ A Symposium on X-ray Microscopy and Microradiography will take place at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England, 16-21 Aug. The symposium, which is sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, will consider all microscopic methods that employ x-rays. The meeting is intended to be a gathering of those with some direct experience or interest, rather than a large public conference. Primary em-

phasis will be placed on the physical methods, in theory and practice.

Sessions are planned on the reflection method, the contact method, and the projection method, and leading exponents will introduce each subject. Sessions will also be devoted to applications in biology, medicine, metallurgy, and other fields, including industrial applications. The Academic Press will publish the proceedings.

Because hotel rooms are difficult to get in August, those requiring such accommodation should supply the exact dates of their stay as soon as possible. For information, communicate with Dr. W. C. Nixon, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England.

■ The International Congress of Clinical Chemistry will be held 9-14 Sept. at the Hotel New Yorker, New York. The program of the congress will have as its principal topic "The significance of metabolic systems in clinical chemistry." Morning sessions will be devoted to reviews of selected subjects by invited speakers, chiefly from overseas, and afternoon sessions to contributed papers. Abstracts of the latter should be sent to the chairman of the scientific program, Dr. Harry Sobotka, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York 29, N.Y., *before 15 May*.

Exhibits of scientific interest are to

be an important feature. Arrangements should be made with the chairman of the Scientific Exhibits Committee, Dr. Charles L. Fox, New York Medical College, Fifth Ave. and 105 St., New York 29, also *before 15 May*. For general information, address the secretary, John G. Reinhold, 711 Maloney Bldg., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

■ A comprehensive review of accomplishments in the electronic components field and a survey of future trends will highlight the 1956 Electronic Components Symposium that is to be held in the Department of Interior Auditorium, Washington, D.C., 1-3 May. The theme of the meeting is "Components—accomplishments and trends." Engineers and scientists from both industry and Government will deliver technical papers covering present and future developments of a variety of electronic components.

Arrangements for the 1956 symposium are under the direction of A. W. Rogers, U.S. Army Signal Corps, Fort Monmouth, N.J. The technical program is being developed under the supervision of P. S. Darnell, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc., Whippany, N.J. Sponsored by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Radio Engi-

neers, the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association, and the West Coast Electronic Manufacturers Association, with the active participation of the Department of Defense and the National Bureau of Standards, the program will be divided into seven sessions, including an evening session devoted to electron tubes and solid-state devices.

The opening session on 1 May will include addresses by well-known representatives of industry and Government from this country, England, and Canada. Approximately six speakers will be heard during each of the ensuing six sessions.

Society Elections

■ American Society of Zoologists: pres. Tracy Sonneborn, Indiana University; v. pres. John Buck, National Institutes of Health; sec., Rudolph T. Kempton, Vassar College; treas., Theodore L. Jahn.

■ Alaskan Science Conference: pres., Troy L. Péwé; v. pres., Charles W. Wilson; treas., Arthur S. Buswell; sec., Howard C. Baltzo; National Councilor, Earl H. Beistline.

■ Society for the Study of Evolution: pres., Jens C. Clausen, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Stanford, Calif.; sec., Harlan Lewis, Department of Botany, University of California; treas., W. Frank Blair; the vice presidents are Charles M. Bogert, Carl Epling, Michael J. D. White. AAAS representative, Bruce Wallace, Long Island Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.

■ Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease: pres., Harry C. Solomon; 1st v. pres., Stanley Cobb; 2nd v. pres., Wilder Penfield; sec.-treas., Rollo J. Masselink, 710 W. 168 St., New York 32; asst. sec., Lawrence C. Kolb.

Forthcoming Events

April

8-10. American Assoc. of Colleges of Pharmacy, Detroit, Mich. (R. A. Deno, Colleges of Pharmacy, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

8-12. Scientific Apparatus Makers Assoc., 38th annual, Belleair, Fla. (SAMA, 20 North Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Ill.)

8-13. American Chemical Soc., Dallas, Tex. (A. H. Emery, ACS, 1155 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

8-13. American Pharmaceutical Assoc., annual, Detroit, Mich. (R. P. Fischelis, APA, 2215 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 7.)

8-13. Symposium on Problems of Automation, Milan, Italy. (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Ufficio Congressi e Mostre, 7 Piazzale delle Scienze, Rome, Italy.)

9-11. American Assoc. of Feed Microscopists, annual, Terre Haute, Ind. (R.

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C. Wornick, Agricultural Research Dept., Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., Terre Haute.)

9-12. International Anesthesia Research Soc., 30th annual cong., Miami Beach, Fla. (R. J. Whiteacre, 13951 Terrace Rd., Cleveland 12, Ohio.)

10-11. Symposium for Management on Applications of Analog Computers, Kansas City, Mo. (O. Fanning, Midwest Research Inst., 425 Volker Blvd., Kansas City 10.)

10-12. Council for Agricultural and Chemurgic Research, 21st annual, Chicago, Ill. (J. W. Ticknor, CACR, 350 Fifth Ave., New York 1.)

12. Assoc. of Vitamin Chemists, Chicago, Ill. (M. Freed, Dawes Products, 4800 S. Richmond, Chicago 32.)

13-14. Louisiana Acad. of Science, annual, New Orleans, La. (H. B. Boudreaux, Dept. of Zoology, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge 3.)

14. South Carolina Acad. of Science, annual, Clemson, S.C. (H. W. Freeman, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia.)

15-16. American Soc. for Artificial Internal Organs, Atlantic City, N.J. (P. F. Salisbury, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, 4751 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles 29, Calif.)

15-20. American Soc. for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Atlantic City, N.J. (C. C. Pfeiffer, Emory Univ. School of Medicine, Emory University, Ga.)

15-21. American Inst. of Nutrition, At-

lantic City, N.J. (R. W. Engel, Virginia Polytechnic Inst., Blacksburg.)

15-21. American Physiological Soc., Atlantic City, N.J. (M. O. Lee, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington 14.)

15-21. American Soc. for Experimental Pathology, annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (C. C. Erickson, 858 Madison Ave., Memphis, Tenn.)

16-18. Aero Medical Assoc., 27th annual, Chicago, Ill. (J. P. Marbarger, Aeromedical and Physical Environment Lab., Univ. of Illinois, Chicago.)

16-19. Conf. on Communication of Information by Workers Studying Sounds of Biological Significance, University Park, Pa. (H. Frings, Dept. of Zoology and Entomology, Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park.)

16-20. American Assoc. of Immunologists, Atlantic City, N.J. (F. S. Cheever, Graduate School of Public Health, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.)

16-20. American College of Physicians, 37th annual, Los Angeles, Calif. (E. R. Loveland, ACP, 4200 Pine St., Philadelphia 4, Pa.)

16-20. American Soc. of Biological Chemists, Atlantic City, N.J. (P. Handler, Dept. of Biochemistry, Duke Univ., Durham, N.C.)

16-20. Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 40th annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (M. O. Lee, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington 14.)

17-19. Atomic Energy and Its Implica-

tions for Southern Industry, Atlanta, Ga. and Oak Ridge, Tenn. (O. H. Townsend, Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc., 260 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y.)

18-19. National Industrial Research Conf., Chicago, Ill. (J. J. Kowal, Armour Research Foundation, Illinois Institute of Technology, 10 West 35 St., Chicago 16.)

18-20. American College of Allergists, 12th annual, New York, N.Y. (F. W. Wittich, 401 La Salle Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minn.)

18-20. Conf. on Marine Corrosion and Fouling Problems, La Jolla, Calif. (Univ. of California Engineering Extension, Los Angeles 24.)

19-21. Assoc. of Southeastern Biologists, Durham, N.C. (J. C. Dickinson, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville.)

19-21. Ohio Acad. of Science, 65th annual, Springfield. (R. W. Dexter, Kent State Univ., Kent, Ohio.)

20-21. Arkansas Acad. of Science, annual, Arkadelphia. (L. F. Bailey, Dept. of Botany and Bacteriology, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville.)

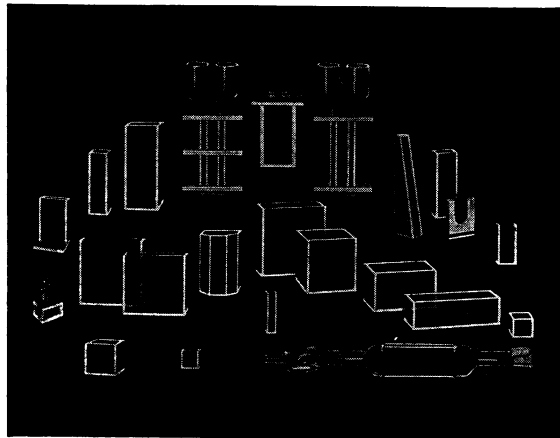
20-21. Bioengineering Symposium, 2nd, Terre Haute, Ind. (W. L. Keko, Commercial Solvents Corp., Terre Haute.)

20-21. Biometric Soc., jointly with Inst. of Mathematical Statistics, Princeton, N.J. (A. M. Dutton, Univ. of Rochester, Box 287, Station 3, Rochester 20, N.Y.)

(See issue of 17 February for comprehensive list)

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