

committees and sub-committees were submitted for approval—one that there should be a halt in the attempts to provide complete schemes for virus nomenclature until the results of research now in progress give some sound basis for classification.

An invitation to hold the next Congress at Rome in 1953 was accepted. There was a banquet in the evening, with many speeches, and the final festive occasion was a dance.

Visits were arranged to places of interest, and many members flew to São Paulo after the Congress to visit the agricultural and medical institutes on Friday, and a snake farm on Saturday, followed by a barbecue.

J. RAMSBOTTOM

THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT FOR 1949

At the thirtieth annual general meeting of the Institute of Physics, held on July 20 at the Institute's House, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, the following were elected to take office on October 1: *President*, Prof. W. E. Curtis; *Vice-President*, Prof. E. G. Cox; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. E. R. Davies; *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. P. B. Dudding; *New Ordinary Members of the Board*, Dr. F. P. Bowden and Mr. G. R. Noakes. Prof. H. W. Thompson joins the Board as the new representative of the Faraday Society.

The thirtieth annual report of the Board, covering the work of the Institute during 1949*, was adopted at the meeting. It records that the Board met six times, and its various standing committees twenty-five times, during the year. Applications for membership in the various grades received during 1949 numbered 652, including 126 to the new grade of graduateship of the Institute. The total membership increased by approximately 200 to 3,657. The Institute has now eight branches and seven specialist subject groups, the North East Coast Branch and the Education Group having been inaugurated in October. Details of the various activities of the branches and groups are given in the report. Many meetings were held and several laboratories were visited. The five divisions of the Australian Branch held thirty-nine meetings and a three-day conference on X-rays in industry in Melbourne during November. The Scottish Branch was responsible for a pioneer experiment in the arrangement of a course, which has attracted very large audiences, of eighteen weekly lectures on atomic and nuclear physics. The Institute collaborated with the H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory of the University of Bristol in a summer school during September on theoretical physics, and the Stress Analysis Group was responsible for two summer schools, one at University College, London, and the other in conjunction with the Engineering Laboratory of the University of Cambridge.

A new and outstanding event was the convention organised by the Institute and held in Buxton during May 19–21. Primarily a domestic affair, attendance was limited to members, members' ladies and a few distinguished guests. It proved most successful. More than four hundred people attended, and, in addition to social events such as the convention dinner and dance, visits to local beauty spots, places of interest, laboratories and works, symposia were

* Thirtieth Annual Report of the Board of the Institute of Physics. Pp. ii + 12. (London: Institute of Physics, 1949.)

held on physical analysis and testing, the development and application of X-ray analysis, and means of accelerating particles to high energies. The president, Dr. F. C. Toy, opened a discussion on "The Institute, Past, Present and Future", and Prof. A. M. Tyndall, a past president, spoke on "Atomic Particles—a Survey of Recent Discoveries". An exhibition, consisting of photographs, models and instruments, was an additional interesting feature of the convention.

The report mentions that applications from technical colleges for official recognition by the Institute as institutions suitable for the training of physicists continue to be received, and that to date twenty-eight colleges, after personal inspection by representatives of the Institute and of the Ministry of Education, have been granted official recognition. Nine colleges in England and Wales have had courses approved for Ordinary National Certificates in applied physics, and arrangements have been made with the Scottish Education Department for the establishment of similar courses in Scotland.

In accordance with the recommendation of its publications policy committee that the amount of the publications of the Institute should be considerably increased, arrangements were completed for the launching in January this year of the *British Journal of Applied Physics* (see *Nature*, April 29, p. 679), for the publication of further volumes in the "Physics in Industry" series, and for a monthly *Bulletin*, which also commenced in January. During 1949 a second edition of the "Handbook of Industrial Radiology" was published and also a selection, in book form, from the "Laboratory and Workshop Notes" which had appeared in the *Journal of Scientific Instruments*. The royalties from the sale of both these books are credited to the Benevolent Fund of the Institute.

It is an interesting but somewhat disturbing fact to find reported that of the 151 papers and 51 laboratory and workshop notes submitted for publication in the Institute's *Journal*, only 103 and 36 respectively were accepted and that, of these, 42 and 10 respectively required modification to meet the referees' requirements. It would appear that authors need to take more care to make sure that their work is of sufficiently high merit to warrant publication and that their articles are presented in a clear and concise form and in conformity with the particular requirements of the *Journal*.

The Institute continues to be represented on various joint committees and bodies. Details of these are listed in the annual report, and reports of some of the representatives of the Institute are given in an appendix. It is reported by the representative on the British Committee for Radiological Units that the Committee, in 1948, prepared a memorandum entitled "The Measurement of Ionising Radiations for Medical and Biological Purposes" in which it was proposed that a new unit, with the symbol *J*, be set up applicable to all ionizing radiations. This memorandum has been circulated to industrial and medical radiologists for comment.

The main part of the programme for the adaptation and renovation of the Institute's House in Belgrave Square was completed during the year, and the meeting and committee rooms have been in regular use. Owing to the continued growth of the work at the headquarters of the Institute, the post of deputy secretary has been created by the Board, and Mr. N. Clarke, who has been the assistant secretary since 1945, was appointed to the post as from January 1, this year.