

## PHYSICAL SOCIETY REPORT FOR 1952

AT the annual general meeting of the Physical Society, held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on May 15, the reports of the council and of the honorary treasurer and the accounts and balance sheet for 1952 were presented and adopted, and the officers and council for 1953-54 were elected (see *Nature*, May 30, p. 958). At the extraordinary general meeting held immediately after the annual general meeting, new articles of association and new rules of the Society, as approved by the Board of Trade, were finally approved and adopted. During 1952 the membership of the Society rose to 2,101—a net increase of seventy-six. The total income from subscriptions was £5,231; but this was less than the cost, £5,799, of providing the membership with the normal amenities and privileges. The new scheme of subscriptions, approved in principle in 1951, was adopted at an extraordinary general meeting held on October 3, 1952, and came into operation on January 1 this year. Under this scheme subscriptions for publications are separated from the subscriptions for membership, and thus the cost, £2,569, of providing members with *Physics Abstracts* during 1952 appears as an expense for the last time. In future the Society should be able to extend the amenities given to its Fellows. The thirty-sixth annual exhibition of scientific instruments and apparatus, held during April 3-8, 1952, was a great success with an attendance of thirteen thousand and resulted in a benefit to the Society of £4,000. This enabled the Society to finish the year with a balance of income over expenditure of approximately £2,500.

Eight science meetings were held in London during the year and two-day meetings at, respectively, the H. H. Wills Physical Laboratories, University of Bristol, at the University of Glasgow and at the Physical Laboratories, University of Manchester. The thirty-sixth Guthrie Lecture<sup>1</sup> was delivered by Sir Lawrence Bragg, who spoke on the X-ray analysis of proteins, and the sixth Rutherford Lecture<sup>2</sup> by Prof. R. E. Peierls, on the atomic nucleus and its constituents. Prof. L. Néel was the recipient of the seventh Holweck Medal of the Société Française de Physique and the Holweck Prize of the Physical Society; the presentation took place at the Royal Institution on May 27, when Prof. Néel delivered the Holweck Discourse<sup>3</sup> on the subject of antiferromagnetism and ferrimagnetism. The twenty-ninth Duddell Medal was presented to Mr. C. Waller, who gave a talk on some topics concerning the production and application of nuclear emulsions, and the eighth Charles Vernon Boys Prize to Dr. B. Bleaney, who spoke on paramagnetic resonance at low temperatures.

The Society continues to be represented on various joint committees and bodies, details of which are listed in the annual report, together with accounts of the activities of the four Groups of the Society, the Colour, Optical, Low Temperature and Acoustic Groups. In addition to science meetings, the Colour Group paid a summer visit to Cambridge, and the Low Temperature Group held its second overseas meeting early in November, when a party of twenty-four members visited laboratories and industrial plants in Holland.

The Society's Library has in the past been the joint responsibility of the Society and of the Institute of Physics, but the Board of the Institute has recently

suggested that the Library would be better administered by the Society alone. It has presented to the Society all books and journals of the Institute at present in the Library and is continuing to pass on to the Library periodicals received in exchange for the Institute journals. The grant received during the year from the Royal Society for the development of the Library has been used mainly for cataloguing and for increasing the shelf space. This has been largely facilitated by the acquisition of a large council chamber at the Society's headquarters. A complete card-index to both text-books and periodicals is now available.

The average time of publication of papers in the Society's *Proceedings* has improved, so the report states, from five and a half months in 1951 to slightly less than five months in 1952, with the hope of still greater improvement in the near future. Both Sections A and B of the *Proceedings* contained about 115 papers each, but there were about twice as many "Letters to the Editor" in Section A as in B. The referees are again praised for their valuable services in keeping a careful check on the papers submitted for publication and for maintaining a high standard in content, style and composition. Of 295 papers and 141 letters submitted, approximately seventy were rejected as unsuitable for publication. Vol. 15 of "Reports on Progress in Physics", containing nine reports and a cumulative index of authors and contents of Vols. 1-15, was published during 1952, and Vol. 16 and a comprehensive cumulative subject index to Vols. 1-10 are in active preparation for publication this year.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Phys. Soc.*, B, **65**, 833 (1952).

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Phys. Soc.*, A, **66**, 313 (1953).

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Phys. Soc.*, A, **65**, 869 (1952).

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SCIENCE

THE report of a symposium on development of international co-operation in science held at Washington on October 18, 1951, in conjunction with the third annual meeting of the Executive Board of the International Council of Scientific Unions, has been issued by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council (Development of International Cooperation in Science: a Symposium held in conjunction with the Third Annual Meeting of the Executive Board, International Council of Scientific Unions, October 18, 1951, Washington, D.C. Pp. 28. (Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, 1952)). It includes Prof. F. J. M. Stratton's brief review of the development of international co-operation in science during the past century down to the formation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and comments on the necessity which now confronts the Council and the Unions of either curtailing their activities or increasing their incomes; and the review of some international scientific joint ventures, for example, in publications, international surveys and laboratories, exchanges of scientists and the co-operative use of natural resources, made by Dr. W. A. Noyes, jun., in which he indicated some of the difficulties and the necessity of an open-minded approach to the problems, is also published.

Dr. J. N. Mukherjee described the attitude of Asia and the Far East, and Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, in putting