

Proceedings of the American Physical Society

MINUTES OF THE 1947 ANNUAL MEETING AT NEW YORK

JANUARY 29-31, 1948

THE 1947 Annual meeting of the American Physical Society was held, like all of the Annual meetings preceding it since that of 1942, at Columbia University in New York City. The dates were Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, January 29, 30, and 31, 1948. Thus, for the sixth consecutive year the burden of receiving our meeting fell upon the physics staff of Columbia University, with minor assistance from other institutions of the New York area (Bell Telephone Laboratories, College of the City of New York, New York University) who provided the lantern operators. Special commendation must be lavished upon W. W. Havens and W. A. Nierenberg, the general managers of the meeting. This was the largest task that ever was imposed by our Society upon any host institution, since upwards of 1650 people registered for the meeting. Three of our Divisions (Electron Physics, Solid-State Physics, Fluid Dynamics) held concurrent sessions; they all provided groups of invited papers, and a considerable number of contributed papers which appeared on the general programme. The American Association of Physics Teachers, having met with us at Chicago, did not join in the New York meeting: it is difficult to imagine how we could have found space for it if it had. We had also the Retiring Presidential Address of President L. A. DuBridge, and invited papers on a variety of topics by C. D. Anderson, R. F. Bacher, James Franck, P. M. Morse, H. C. Pollock (with F. R. Elder and R. V. Langmuir) and Julian Schwinger: the last was repeated by popular request. There were 188 contributed papers, including three read by title.

At the Business Session of the Society, the Tellers (a group at the Brookhaven National Laboratory headed by P. M. Morse) reported the outcome of their long and tedious labors of examining about 2900 ballots. J. R. Oppenheimer is President of the Society, F. W. Loomis its Vice-President, G. B. Pegram its Treasurer and K. K. Darrow its Secretary for the year

1948 (and until the end of the Annual Meeting to be held in January 1949); Frederick Seitz and L. A. Turner are members of the Council for the next four years; S. A. Goudsmit, E. M. Purcell, and V. F. Weisskopf are members of the Board of Editors for the next three years; J. T. Tate continues as Editor of the *Physical Review* and *Reviews of Modern Physics*. Two Amendments to the By-Laws of the Society were proposed by the Council and adopted by the members: the texts are printed hereinafter.

The Council met on Thursday evening, and elected to Fellowship P. H. Abelson, Henry Eyring, J. W. Liska, and R. B. T. Roberts; to Membership it elected 113 candidates, a smaller number than usual at this time because it had acted at the Chicago meeting on nominations received during December. As the 1948 Nominating Committee it appointed L. A. DuBridge (Chairman), H. L. Dryden, J. R. Dunning, F. G. Dunnington, G. F. Hull Jr., H. M. James, W. Shockley, J. T. Tate, and J. H. Van Vleck. A memorial notice of the late Willard Severinghaus, long the Secretary of this Society, written by H. W. Farwell, was ordered sent to the *Physical Review* for publication. The By-Laws of the Division of Fluid Dynamics were approved, as also were amendments by the By-Laws of the Division of High-Polymer Physics. The Council voted to donate wartime and postwar (up to 30 June 1948) issues of *Physical Review* and *Reviews of Modern Physics* to selected universities in Germany and Japan. From the reports of the Treasurer and of the Editor it transpired that the "lush period," during which the Society made a net profit on *Physical Review* owing to lessened size and relatively low unit printing costs of this journal, has ended: we must anticipate a drain on the surplus of the Society henceforth.

The dinner of the Society was held on Friday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel New Yorker, with an attendance of 346; and