

a "letter of recommendation" from the student's university.

Probably other tasks may be tackled concerning the "students and post-doctoral programme" of the EPS. But those listed above are already, on the whole, more ambitious than the Society could handle with its forces and resources at present or for the next few years.

However, this could be said about all the activities of the Society. Officially it has had only one year of life and its survival depends on the continuation of the atmosphere that promoted its foundation and has sustained it till now. This atmosphere is largely due to the personal convictions and support of the members of the Society. Experience so far shows that they (that is to say: a large fraction of the most distinguished European physicists) are willing to take an active part, without remuneration, shouldering the responsibilities required for the life of the Society. In this way they feel that they offer something valuable to the scientific, social and political evolution of Europe. This is a matter that concerns all of them because perhaps more than anyone else, they are aware that Science today means more and more to the future of human society.

Placing reliance on the collaboration of the members of the Society, the first step concerning the "students" programme are following the established precedents according to the procedure laid down in the by-laws of the Society — that is the constitution of an "Advisory Committee on Education" to the Executive Committee as approved by the Council in Vienna. This new Committee will start work in the next few weeks.

In the first period of its activity, it will be similar to the other "Advisory Committees" when information must be gathered and analyzed. In a second stage it may be given some executive authority with a more or less **permanent** status. What will change is its composition. Membership of this Committee will constitute a considerable burden and, for this reason, a member will serve for two or three years only. This Committee is to be composed mainly of persons recommended by the Divisions.

It is expected that the Committee will propose a timescale for the actions to be taken by the Society. It may also gradually prepare its evolution to an almost permanent body having the help of ancillary staff and of a small organization.

## Letters to the Editor

Sir,

I listened carefully to the lecture by Professor Amaldi on the subject of "Physics and Education", during the Inaugural Conference of the EPS. I would like to make several comments concerning high school teaching.

I think that the P.S.S.C. may be useful in the first years of physics teaching, but I know that in Italy, for instance, some student pioneer classes have been created, in which modern mathematics are taught in a formal and logical way. I suggest that the same should apply in physics also: in the intermediate teaching years the various formal theories ought to be taught using group theory, symbolic logic, physical dimension theory, and so on. Thus the different notions, taken chiefly from experience, will be scientifically organized.

Finally, I think that one year should be entirely devoted to deepening the fundamental concepts, which are the background of relativity, quantum theory and modern physics, to analyzing from an epistemological viewpoint all previous studies, and to considering the value of physics for building the new "Scientific Humanism".

I suggest that the European Physical Society proposes the establishment in Europe of a five year physics course in High Schools:

- two "experimental" years, of the P.S.S.C type
- two "theoretical" years, using formal logical methods and modern mathematics
- one "philosophical" year, using also the subjects put forward in the Harvard Physics Project.

E. Recami (Catania)

Sir,

I wish to suggest a compact symbol for use in journals.

I remember urging long ago, at Harvard in 1932, the use of "MeV" instead of the clumsy (and incorrect) "million volts". I now wish to suggest a short

way of writing "relativistic". The symbol  $\hat{c}$  is available in type and remarks such as  $\hat{c}$ -particles or  $\hat{c}$ -speed would soon be well understood — with a more direct meaning than the full word, which still has a slight flavour of peculiarity.

E.M. Rogers (Princeton)

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## Documentation Centre

We would like to draw the attention of solid state physicists to the **centre of documentation on the synthesis of crystals** which has been operated since February 1965 by the laboratory of molecular — and crystal — physics of the Science Faculty of Montpellier. Upon written inquiry the centre gives rapid information on the laboratories in which a given crystal is produced, the method of production, the purity and doping, dimensions etc. Three booklets containing part of this information, may be obtained on request.

Information can be obtained at the following address:

Miss A.M. Vergnoux  
Centre de Documentation sur les Synthèses Cristallines  
Laboratoire de Physique Moléculaire et Cristalline  
Faculté des Sciences  
Place Eugène-Bataillon  
F-34 Montpellier

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