

# The Netherlands' Physical Society

*C.M. Braams, Chairman of the Netherlands' Physical Society.*

The Netherlands' Physical Society (Nederlandse Natuurkundige Vereniging, N.N.V.) was founded in 1921 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

The Society has approximately 2200 members. Roughly a quarter of these are students, the other categories being (in order of decreasing number) physicists associated with universities, industry, government-sponsored research, and secondary education. No statistics on the distribution of all physicists in the Netherlands over professions are available, but it is believed that a majority of those engaged in research are members of the Society, whereas only a minority of physics teachers and advanced students have joined.

Membership fees amount to Hfl. 40 for regular members and Hfl. 15 for students. Members receive a biweekly issue of the "Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Natuurkunde" free of further charge and may take part in the Society's scientific meetings and symposia. These are organized either for the Society as a whole, or for one of its regional or sectional subdivisions.

The N.N.V. has a large and active section for applied physics, which organizes its meetings jointly with the Netherlands' Institute of Engineers and has similar contacts with the Chemical Society. Initiatives have recently been taken to increase the number of sections in order to cover fields where contacts have, up to now, depended mainly on initiatives by individuals or laboratories. It is the Society's policy to develop national sections in fields corresponding to those of EPS Divisions, and to promote international contacts, either on a European scale through the European Physical Society or regionally through bilateral contacts. For example, some highly successful meetings of nuclear physicists were organized jointly with the German Physical Society.

Other activities of the Society include the organization — together with the association of physics teachers — of refresher courses for laboratory assistants. Another initiative

that has proved to be of great importance for physics in the Netherlands has been the founding of the Journal "Physica", which is now operated by a commercial house under the responsibility of the Foundation Physical.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the N.N.V. is organizing a three day conference to be held in the week before Easter 1971. Contrary to the many national and international meetings, organized or sponsored by the N.N.V. mainly for the benefit of physicists working in research, this anniversary conference will aim at the general interests of the whole membership, including teachers and students. This is in agreement with the policy of the Society, as it has been evolving in recent years, to alternate meetings and symposia for specialists with discussions on matters such as the teaching of physics and science policy. The same tendency is noticeable in the "Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Natuurkunde", which a year ago underwent a 'facelifting' operation accompanied by a broadening of its scope.

Although the N.N.V. is not one of the smallest physical societies in Europe, it cannot serve its members in the same manner as the world's major national societies. Its policy therefore, is to give all possible support to the strengthening and expansion of the EPS. It strongly encourages its members to become individual members of the EPS, and, if called upon, to serve in EPS committees.

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The headquarters office is :  
Bureau N.N.V.  
Van der Waals-Laboratorium,  
Valckenierstraat 67, Amsterdam C,  
The Netherlands.

