

other matter. This might help to describe the folding of DNA molecules in some large chromosomes with cholesteric structure. Further ($-\pi$) dislocations seem involved in the splitting of these chromosomes.

Conclusion

I have tried to give a feeling about a part of condensed matter research which deals with intermediary structures, between the macroscopic and the really microscopic one. This has been an active field for some time, well known in metallurgy, magnetism, and electronics. It seems also a promising field at the boundary of polymer physics and of biology.

Society News

Member Societies

The Institute of Physics, London announces that A.B. Pippard, Cambridge took over the presidency of the Institute from Sir Brian Flowers.

Associate Members

The following organizations have decided to join the European Physical Society as Associate Members:

Agip Nucleare S.p.A., Milano, Italy,
Manufacture Belge de Lampes et de Matériel Electronique S.A., Bruxelles, Belgium.

Improving on the Physics Society Interaction

G. Diemer, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Physics and Society points out that the letter to member societies which forms the main part of the text published under the above title in *Europhysics News*, 5, No. 6 (June 1974) was actually signed by H.B.G. Casimir, President.

Europhysics Journals

Upon recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Publications the Executive Committee granted the EPS label to **Contemporary Physics**, a review journal.

Optica Acta recently accepted as specialized Europhysics journal will be available to Individual Ordinary Members of EPS at the *reduced rate* of £ 12 per annum, provided that individuals warrant the Journal for their personal use. Orders may be placed directly to the Publisher, Taylor & Francis, 10-14 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NF.

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

The letter to the Editor by B.J. Green in *EUROPHYSICS NEWS* 5, No. 3 (1974) caught my interest. I am one of those European physicists who have not yet felt enough urge to enlist as « individual ordinary member » of EPS. And this in spite of the fact that I live closest to EPS headquarters and know its Geneva staff personally; in spite also of the fact that *EUROPHYSICS NEWS* is printed by the publisher of my local newspaper.

Being an active member of one of the member societies of EPS and Physics professor at a European University my interest in European Physics is obvious. But, while I had been enthusiastic about the founding of EPS, the final product left me somewhat embarrassed, in particular when comparing with the American Physical Society, of which I am also a member: The compromising about EPS journals was a sad start, and I came to admit that *Helvetica Physica Acta* was wise in not buying the EPS seal. Unfortunately, I must agree with Green on this point.

As to the question of the long-range policy matter raised in Green's letter I would like to remind you of the article by K. Ganzhorn in *EUROPHYSICS NEWS* 3, No. 1 (1972). In view of this courageous and realistic appreciation of the problem the « Note from the Editor » following Green's letter sounds deceptively lame.

I think Ganzhorn has really put the finger on one of the problems of EPS when he writes « All indicated tasks in science policy are of a nature to defy solution by honorary engagement ». It seems, indeed, to be a general feature of Science policy patterns in

Europe as compared to the United States, where scientists are appointed to serve in political bodies on a full-time basis over a restricted number of years, that in Europe these appointments are often on a honorary or part-time basis extending over long periods. Here the example best known to me is the Swiss National Fund.

The trouble is that the problem of the honorary engagement is intimately coupled to the financial situation of EPS which by itself reflects an unrealistic policy followed in the past, and which now apparently excludes all but honorary engagements.

This pattern looks rather like being self-trapping. The only way out I can see at this moment is that *strongly motivated European scientists devote their sabbatical years to Science policy jobs with EPS*. There is of course also the honorable example of the acting president of EPS who serves while being retired. But there are several obvious reasons that this example hardly can be generalised.

I think that in the long run EPS should arrive at an *integration of national societies in such a way that the distinction between « individual ordinary members » and national society members would vanish*. In fact, this distinction gives rise to the image of a split social personality of EPS. And this leads to another self-trapping mechanism: It makes it difficult for individual physicists to identify with EPS and hence reduces the attractiveness to enlist as « individual ordinary member ».

Once EPS would have found its « unsplit » personality in the above sense the financial strengthening would follow rather naturally and the problem of the EPS journals could be settled more forcefully. Needless to say that such a unification would also lead to a strengthened and better motivated leadership of EPS.

C.P. Enz,
Geneva University

Divisions

The following **Sections of the Condensed Matter Division** recently elected their new Boards. A Libchaber, Secretary of the Division reports that the following have been elected:

LOW TEMPERATURE PHYSICS:

W.J. Huiskamp, Leiden
W. Klose, Saarbrücken
N. Kurti, Oxford
T. Lindqvist, Uppsala
J.L. Olsen, Zürich
S. Sifrata, Rez near Prague

METALS:

P. Averbuch, Grenoble
O. Beckman, Uppsala
F. Fumi, Genoa
V. Heine, Cambridge
J. Muller, Geneva
W. Schilling, Jülich

MACROMOLECULAR PHYSICS:

P. Corradini, Naples
E.W. Fischer, Mainz
W. Holzmüller, Leipzig
A.J. Kovacs, Strasbourg
A.J. Staverman, Leiden
I.M. Ward, Leeds

MAGNETISM:

A.S. Borovik-Romanov, Moscow
G. Busch, Zürich
A.R. Miedema, Eindhoven
L. Pal, Budapest
R. Pauthenet, Grenoble
E.P. Wohlfarth, London

SEMICONDUCTORS AND INSULATORS:

G. Baldini, Milan
M. Balkanski, Paris
F. Bassani, Rome
P. Grosse, Aachen
C. Hiilsum, Great Malvern
B.M. Vul, Moscow