

the state of Oklahoma, I finished a lecture in the following way :

« Although our technical civilization is the result of a joining of forces of philosophical inquisitiveness and industrial zeal, our desire to understand nature is not only justified by its practical importance. It corresponds to a noble urge of the human race, that is an aim in itself. Even the most die-hard materialist feels dimly that the mathematicians dealing with an impressive edifice of abstractions and the astronomer probing the structure of the universe are doing valuable things and are in some way contributing to the richness of human experience.

There enters some of this even in a simple piece of applied research. To feel that one's work is not only of practical use but has also inherent value and beauty, is one of the things to make life worth living. We research people should count ourselves fortunate beings. »

That was seventeen years ago and in those days I was less worried about the future of our society than today. Certainly, there was also then the threat of atomic warfare, the fear of total annihilation, but there was not the same distrust of technical progress in general, not the same doubt about the future of mankind, even if it manages to avoid nuclear holocaust. And I was still experiencing a kind of technological euphoria, because I had witnessed how industrial expansion had helped my country to regain a state of relative prosperity and well-being after the dismal years of wartime occupation. Can I say exactly the same to-day ? Not quite. I feel that I have to emphasize moral responsibilities of the scientist and the engineer, make it clear that we can not get away with saying that technical products are neither good nor bad as such and that it is none of our business what other people are doing with them. And I must point out that the very fascination of our work itself holds the danger that a man, who is personally by no means of a murderous disposition, may work happily on the technically and scientifically intriguing problems of murderous and morally unpermissible contrivances.

And yet. Looking at our program, at the vast number of tasks ahead of us, at the wide range of possibilities for bettering the lot of man by application of our skills and our knowledge I would still say : we research people should count ourselves fortunate beings.

The Hellenic Physical Society

The Hellenic Physical Society was established in 1930, to promote the advancement of Physical and Natural Sciences in Greece.

At this time Physics Departments in the University of Athens and Thessaloniki covered all activities in Physics and Geophysics.

The Society was responsible for the publication of the "Bulletin" a monthly issue in which original articles of general importance and on scientific progress were published.

The distribution of this publication was rather limited between the members of the Society, namely University Professors, Lecturers and Assistants and also High School Professors.

Few years later the Society decided to publish a special Journal of level appropriate for High School pupils, in which original research papers were not accepted. "Physical World" which is the title of this Journal reached a large popularity, and 50.000 copies of its monthly edition are distributed.

Just after the end of last War started a new period for Greek Physicists.

A post graduate course in Electronics and Radio Engineering was created in the University of Athens.

Physicists with a post-graduate degree in Electronics and Radio Engineering were responsible since 1945 not only to rebuild the Radio and Telecommunication networks completely destructed by the Occupation Forces in this country, but also to educate the necessary personnel of Radio Sub-Engineers and Technicians for all services.

For the first time in the World, these Technicians and Sub-Engineers were recruited from High School graduates, a practice generalized after twenty years and not only in the Radio field, by all countries, forming the intermediate between University and Technical Education level like

A small number of

fellowships

for one, two or three months are available in 1975. The salary will amount to about 4 500 F a month. Travel costs are at visitors own expense. Applications with list of publications should be sent before December 1st, 1974, to : Monsieur le Directeur de l'Observatoire de Nice, Le Mont Gros, 06300 NICE, France.



Michael Anastassiades, President of the Hellenic Physical Society.

the "Institut Universitaire de Technologie".

In 1970 this post graduate Electronic formation was enlarged to a two years course and in 1972 another branch was added on Computer and Automation exclusively for graduates in Physics.

At this same time a post graduate certificate on Meteorology started.

Physicists as Professors for High School are actually graduated from the Universities of Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras and Jannina. Only Athens and Thessaloniki has post graduate courses in Electronics. Athens has also courses in Computer Hardware and Automation.

The Hellenic Physical Society has 1050 members, 700 of them are High School Professors and 350 are responsible in Radio and Telecommunications services, in Democritos Nuclear Center, in Civil Aviation and in all University Research Laboratories.

Several Committees on Educational Advancement on Research and Applications and other ad hoc problems are formed by the Council.

Departments of the Society ruled by a Council elected by members from the Northern Greece and by members of Crete Island is also created by the Council.

The actual President is Professor Dr. Michael Anastassiades, Director of the Physical Electronics Laboratory in the University of Athens and Secretary General is Dr. Denis Marinos, Laboratory of Physics of Athens University.

The Hellenic Physical Society was recently accepted as Member of the European Physical Society.