

to approach this performance as costs creep up and the value of a number of revenues decline were it not for the expected receipts from selling the Proceedings of the Rome Seminar which are being printed by INFN under an arrangement that is very advantageous to EPS.

This throws into relief the urgent need for the increase in unit fee from 1 January, 1980, from 7 Sw.Fr. to 8 Sw.Fr. that Council agreed. Considering that the last increase dates back to 1976, since when, a large deficit has been wiped out and a number of new initiatives have been taken, the Society can feel reasonably happy with its house-keeping.

Opinions on the extent to which contributions for 4a) members should be reduced were about equally divided. The governing principle when EPS was founded was that it should not be financially advantageous to join the Society and not be member of a national society. In many countries,

changes in currency values had resulted in an excessive penalization of this group — but the difference was uneven and the principle that carried the day was to select a new rate which implied no change in the 4a) contributions for the coming period.

Membership

This led naturally to a discussion on how the number of Individual Ordinary Members, 4a) and 4c), can be materially increased. As a result, more countries will adopt the practice of permitting 4c) members to pay in their national currency through their national society. It was also recognized that a sustained effort must be made to keep the physics public informed and to use meetings for further recruitment. Individual efforts in the past, as for example in the NP Division have been very successful. It should however be normal practice at approved conferences, for literature on EPS to be available and for parti-

cipants to be encouraged to apply for membership of EPS before they disperse. We should also reconsider a limited-time student membership to lead young physicists into establishing good habits. The strength of the Society lies in its members.

Executive Committee

The composition of the new Executive Committee was published last month. One notable omission from the previous committee will have been remarked, namely that of Marcel Guenin who had been member for the maximum period of five years and Secretary for four years. Guenin came to the Executive Committee, having led the special working party set up to study the Society's administration when the fortunes of the Society were at their lowest ebb. His contribution to EPS over these past years has been of the greatest significance and Council placed on record its warm appreciation.

EPS Scholarships

At its meeting in Rome, Council approved a modification to the rules covering the selection of scholars in order to simplify and stream-line procedures. In the future, the coordinator, Jean Muller, will be able to process applications immediately, referring to the Selection Board only those cases where a second opinion is deemed necessary.

INFN

In the April Issue of *Europhysics News*, details of the scholarships for 1979/80 in Italy were given. These are all under the auspices of the "Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare" whose structure and functions are set out below. INFN, as reorganized by the law of 15 December 1971, has the institutional task of promoting, coordinating and performing experimental and theoretical research in the field of fundamental nuclear physics. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, INFN also looks after Italian participation in international activities in the field of fundamental nuclear physics at both the multi-lateral and bilateral levels.

INFN is an institution with an autonomous budget (amounting in 1979 to 25 000 million It. Lire) operating under the control of the Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of In-

dustry and Trade and the Ministry for the Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research. President of the Institute is Antonino Zichichi, President of EPS.

INFN comprises 18 Research Units: 14 Sections, the National Centre for the Analysis of Photograms (CNAF, Bologna), and 3 National Laboratories: at Frascati near Rome, at Legnaro near Padua and the Southern National Laboratory of Catania. INFN Sections are to be found in the Institutes of Physics at the Universities of Turin, Genoa, Milan, Pavia, Padua, Trieste, Bologna, Florence, Pisa, Rome, Naples, Bari, Catania and the Istituto Superiore di Sanità.

The staff of the INFN Sections comprises not only INFN employees but also a large number of University staff (very often holding management responsibilities) associated with INFN. On 31 December, 1978, the strength was made up of 897 INFN staff members and 1109 University staff members associated with INFN.

The most important aspects of the Institute's activity are:

- promotion and development of inter-University and international research programmes;
- development and co-ordination of national research in the sector of fundamental nuclear physics;

- patronage and promotion of didactic activities in the field of physics (with particular importance given to the fundamental nuclear physics sector) within Italian Universities.

The Institute's scientific activities are coordinated and carried out within five research sectors (Groups):

- Group I (Electronic Experiments) and Group II (Track Chambers) for elementary particle physics;
- Group III for the physics of nuclei;
- Group IV for theoretical physics;
- Group V for technical and technological developments.

A National Scientific Committee has been created for each of these Groups to advise the Council of the Institute on specific programmes of activities. A representative from each operative Research Unit of the Institute, elected by the researchers themselves, is present in each of the five National Scientific Committees.

In the field of international collaboration, INFN is assuring the promotion, the coordination and the financing of all the national activities carried out at CERN. It is also responsible for the activities of Italian research groups working within the framework of other international collaborations, such as those undertaken at a bilateral level with the scientific Institutions of France, Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Soviet Union, U.S.A. etc.

INFN is also an Associate Member of EPS.