between fundamental and applied research. He combined the "wache Neugier, den Schleier der Natur zu lüften" (awake curiosity to lift off the veil of Nature) with the objective of giving a solid base to application, and an education to engineers so that they could go on and develop practical devices [1].

Barkhausen was an outstanding university teacher who tried always to achieve the utmost simplicity and clarity, however difficult the topic. He also had the type of personality that could form the mind and character of his students while still encouraging them to express their own independence and creativity. He was great humanist and a warm-hearted person, interested in the personal problems of his students and ready to help them when they were in need.

There is much that is of interest in the life and work of Barkhausen, in the man himself, his physics and also in how he saw the place of physics in Society and the responsibility of physicists for progress in technology.

For all these reasons, the Academy of Science of the DDR (of which Barkhausen was a member) and the Technical University of Dresden are celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth with a ceremony and scientific conference this month.

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Computational Physics Group

The activities of the **Computational Physics Group** of the European Physical Society have, as objective, the sharing of experience and the dissemination of results of research into the application of computers to physics. Within this framework can be considered problems related to the computerization of experiments, data acquisition, interpretation of experimental data, data processing, theoretical calculations, as well as assistance in the design and utilization of physical instruments and facilities.

The main effort of the CPG is devoted to the organization of Conferences which may be general in character or concentrated on more specific aspects of computer applications in physics. In 1980, we had the Conference on Computing in High Energy and Nuclear Physics, held 9-12 September in Bologna, and recently, the Europhysics Conference on Vector and Parallel Processors, held 25-28 August in Chester. This was a general conference and covered the capabilities and potentials of modern, mostly large computers, and their impact on the development of physical research and applications.

Next year, 21-24 September 1982 in Warsaw, the Europhysics Conference organized by CPG in cooperation with the Institute of Nuclear Research, Swierk-Otwock, Poland, and the Polish Physical Society will be devoted to more specialized topics. Entitled "Computing in Accelerator Design and Operations" it will cover the use of computers in design and digital control, and the application of accelerators in research, medicine and industry. Future CPG Conferences are to be devoted to Computing in Plasma Research, Software for Engineering Tools, etc.

Another line of CPG activities is the organization of Summer Schools in Computing in Physics. They are organized in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Union of Mathematicians and Physicists in beautiful, old castles so richly distributed throughout that country. The last in Stara Lesna, 18-29 May was devoted to the use of microprocessors in physics and was accompanied by a workshop on symbolic languages.

It is planned that the next Summer Schools held in odd years, possibly organized also by other national physical societies, will be devoted to the application of data base concepts in physics as well to other software engineering methods and tools, which could be applied in physics.

A very interesting initiative of the CPG is the encouragement it is giving to the editing of handbooks of formulae and computing methods used in various branches of physics. A number of possibilities for the publication of these handbooks, which would make them available at low cost to EPS members, are at present being studied. The first two handbooks will be devoted to High Energy Physics, and Atomic and Molecular Physics. People interested in taking part in such activities should contact the Computational Physics Group Board. Their efforts will be assisted and sponsored by the CPG.

Next year, on 20 September in Warsaw, a general meeting of the members of the Computational Physics Group will take place, where the programme of further activities will be discussed. Everyone working in the field of computational physics or interested in its development is urged to join the Computational Physics Group. Furthermore all members of the Group are asked to participate actively in the general meeting so as to influence the formulation of objectives.

R. Zelazny

Plasma Physics Division

On 14 September 1981, the Board of the **Plasma Physics Division** held its annual meeting in Moscow during the 10th European Conference on Controlled Fusion and Plasma Physics. The first regular General Assembly of the Division took place at the site of the Conference on 17 September. It is time therefore to report again on the affairs of the Division as was first done a year ago (*Europhysics News,* **11** (1980) 7/8).

Although this is not the proper place to give a major scientific appreciation, it should be said that the Conference showed that there is steady progress in all fields of fusion-related plasma physics. Contributions came from colleagues from all over the world and, in particular, the Conference allowed us to gain a detailed insight into the work going on in the Soviet Union. In tokamaks, rapid progress has been achieved in divertor experiments and studies of the plasma edge, confirming the effectiveness of divertors in reducing the concentration of metal ions in the discharge. An improvement in plasma confinement and more detailed analyses of its parametric dependence were also reported and electron cyclotron heating of plasma has been demonstrated on a larger scale. Both theoretical analyses and experimental work have improved our understanding of stellarators, the reversed-field pinch and the bumpy torus and the dynamics and the structure of the plasma focus have been elucidated in more detail. Experiments in the tandem mirror configuration were reported in which the ideal MHD pressure limit was exceeded. Plasma compression by intense laser beams is studied with new, more powerful devices. Also new ideas on the muon fusion of DT were reported which suggest that this scheme might be more than just a curiosity. A highlight of the Conference was P. L. Kapitza's report on his work in thermonuclear fusion research. It is regrettable that some very relevant results obtained recently in western European laboratories were not presented at the Conference.

Turning now to matters discussed at the meeting of the Board and in the General Assembly: First, to prepare the 11th European Conference on Controlled Fusion and Plasma Physics, to be held 5-9 September,