

of the differential conference fee to make individual membership more attractive.

With only one delegation opposing (the USSR Academy of Sciences) Council approved an increase in unit fee from Sw.Frs. 9.— to Sw.Frs. 10.— to come into force after 31 December 1982, as and when the Executive Committee judged that inflation in Switzerland and the state of the Society's finances justified such an increase. Council also agreed that at the same time an increase be applied, the subscription for 4a) members would be reduced from 14 to 12 units.

New Members

In last month's issue of *Europhysics News* the list of new members was published. It included in addition to many individuals, one new 4b) member (the Iceland Physical Society) and 10 new Associate Members. Council was happy to hear that the Hellenic Physical Society which had been in suspense because of difficulty in meeting its payments was returning as a normal member.

Scientific Freedom

In the discussion on scientific freedom, notable for its moderate tone, it was clear that "freedom" had its economic as well as its political limitations. It was natural to plead for special provisions to be made for certain well-known scientists but the problem of finding funds for paying conference enrolment fees and travel was general. It was impossible for EPS to legislate on such a matter, particularly as the provision (or not) of funds for attending scientific conferences was a matter for internal political decisions in each country. The uncomfortable reality was that conference fees could only be waived for some by raising them for others, and travel costs had to be paid by someone. The only way that help could be given was by the organizers of a given conference acting on their own initiative (in consultation with the Division).

On the question of political restrictions, the Committee had received some cooperation in its fact-finding, relating to the five cases that had been referred to it. In some instances however it had not even been acknowledged that a letter of enquiry had been received, and delegates were urged to help ensure that at least this was done in their own countries. Of the five cases referred to above: in one, assurances had been received that an invitation to do research abroad could be accepted, in another, a physicist accused of contravening the law had been released pending trial, whereas in the other three, concerned with confiscation of mail, harassment of participants at a private seminar, and unfair dismissal, no response had been forthcoming from the relevant scientific body. The action to be taken was a matter for the Executive Committee after having explored all the consequences of its decisions.

Publications

Council was pleased to note the up-turn in orders for the *European Journal of Physics* which was having a real impact now in the USA through the "package marketing" scheme of the Institute of Physics. Present orders for Volume 3 were above 620 and it only needed a vigorous push by the EPS Members for the journal to become established and profitable. In a number of committees and in the corridors, discussions were held on the level of article published, and the question was raised whether they were not perhaps on average a little too academic. No doubt the editor, G.W. Series, will be pondering the generous advice he has received.

Negotiations over a European physics letters journal had not reached the point where a clear proposition could be put before Council and the enquiry within the Divisions had revealed a wide range of opinions about the adequacy of the present letters journals. These were, in any case, changing to take account of criticisms that had been made. Nevertheless, Council was reluctant to give up at this stage and the Chairman of the Publications Committee, G. Eilenberger, was urged to continue his discussions, particularly with the three physical societies most directly involved — those of France, Italy and the UK. He will also be following up proposals made by North-Holland for an EPS participation in the publication of *Physics Letters A*.

Young Physicists Fund

One of the most controversial provisions within the EPS has been the imposition of a levy of one unit fee per participant in EPS organized conferences to provide a fund for sending young physicists to the General Conference. Many conference organizers resented this on principle, believing that specialist conferences were, in any case, more important. The dissension the disagreements provoked was considered by many to out-weigh the financial return. On the other hand, it was felt that such an activity was necessary even if funding had to come from the central budget. Various formulae for raising money and dividing it with the Divisions were considered, but finally it was agreed that as the fund had sufficient money at present to cater for the next General Conference, contributions should be made optional and Divisions invited to consider how for their own conferences they could best fund the attendance of a number of young people.

Elections, Future Meetings

Finally, as announced in the April issue of *Europhysics News*, Council elected a new Executive Committee under a new President, Professor Friedel, gratefully accepted the proposal from the Physical Section of the Union of Czechoslovak Mathematicians and Physicists to hold the next

General Conference in Prague in late August 1984, heard details of the Symposium on International Facilities for Physics Research and determined the dates of its meetings up to 1986 (see below).

Evening Lectures

As guests of the University of Geneva, Council was treated to a lecture given by Professor Herwig Schopper, Director General of CERN, on the future prospects in high energy physics. This was followed by a persuasive talk on the interest and value of the *European Journal of Physics*, given by the editor.

Council Meetings

Meetings of Council in the next four years will be held in the week beginning:

1983: 21 March Copenhagen
1984: 26 March
1985: 25 March
1986: 17 March

Member organizations of EPS who are interested in hosting one of these Council meetings are asked to write to the Executive Secretary indicating the year preferred with possibly an alternative.

Swiss Physical Society

On the retirement of Prof. G. Wanders after 17 years service as chief editor of *Helvetica Physica Acta*, the Editorial Board announces the appointment of Ph.A. Martin as his successor. While maintaining the tradition of a high scientific standard, the journal intends to open its pages to contributions of a slightly more diversified nature: *H.P.A.* will henceforth accept contributions from all branches of physics without restrictions as to their origin or to the nationality of their authors.

To provide the possibility of communicating results without strict limitations on length, it will publish experimental and theoretical work of an extended and detailed format which may not be routinely accepted in specialized reviews. In particular, it is proposed to publish original and well written doctoral dissertations. It is intended also to accept reviews and articles of a didactical nature as well as to solicit papers of general interest.

In order to facilitate the publication of extended articles, page charges will be limited to Sw.Fr. 10.—/page and to a maximum of Sw.Fr. 120.—/article. In addition, it may prove possible to provide thesis reprints at a reduced price upon request.

The journal will appear in 4 — 6 issues annually at regular intervals. Prospective authors are invited to submit their contributions to Ph.A. Martin, Editor, Institut de Physique Théorique, EPFL - PHB Ecublens - CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

G.R. Plattner & Ph. A. Martin