

original proposals could be retained. Finally the choice was unanimous, but still adjustments are being made to accommodate new events — the latest being the supernova explosion that has so animated the astronomical world.

Divisions

Although astronomy is tending more and more towards astrophysics, not all astronomers regard themselves as physicists and there is far from unanimity in their attitude towards establishing a European astronomical society. National societies are strong and many have long traditions and although there is a fairly broad consensus in favour of a European society which might then become a group member 4b) of EPS, no one is keen to contribute financially. In the meantime consultations continue and, in any case, the **Astronomy and Astrophysics Division** with its Solar Section will continue with its programme of conferences.

EPS itself (like so many national societies) is only too familiar with the problem of scientists appreciating the benefits of a coordinating society, but not being prepared to contribute themselves. The number of Individual Ordinary Members who fail to pay their membership fee is disappointing and alarming. Whether it be from carelessness, idleness or to put the matter squarely, dishonesty it is all one to EPS: its finances suffer accordingly and the present situation is far from comfortable. However, the period during which non-paying Members can remain on the books and receive all the benefits (in particular *Europhys. News*)

Let's Get It Right

So obsessed were we by the preparations for all the meetings that were to be held in Como in March that in the February issue we announced the General Meeting of Members on 12 August 1987 for the same place.

Our apologies: the **General Meeting** will be held on 12 August 1987 in **Helsinki**

And while we are making excuses, let us add that despite our best intentions we still print from time to time old versions of the end "pavé". So let us be quite clear: The price to institutions for Volumes 3 and 4 (1987) of *Europhysics Letters* is Sw.Fr. 595.— (for the pair) despite the double thickness of the first six issues. The price to IOMs is Sw.Fr. 60.— plus Sw.Fr. 10.— contribution to postal charges.

is now being drastically reduced and printing of the Information Booklet (in the German Democratic Republic) has been put off until after June when a major cleaning operation will have been completed. From now on "members of EPS" is to mean paying members.

At the same time it must be recognised that non-members of the Society profit from many of the Society's activities as much as the members. Conference rationalisation, collaboration between societies as well as individuals, publications, education are examples. It is disturbing that quite so many physicists in Europe are content to parasite on their colleagues.

Returning to the Divisions, nearly all (as well as their Sections) have their conference programmes well established but the scene is not static, e.g. an innovation of the **High Energy and Particle Physics Division** is to establish in Europe a biennial accelerator conference covering accelerators of all energies and designed to interest the whole spectrum of users. A big effort is also being made to convince IUPAP to reconsider its conference on photon and lepton interactions which despite the generous efforts of the Division to arrive at an understanding will this year be essentially a repeat of Uppsala one month later in Hamburg.

The **Condensed Matter Division** is planning to increase from two to three the number of courses held annually by the International School of Materials Science and Technology organised by M. Balkanski at Erice. Readers will recall that forms were distributed last October seeking information for a *Condensed Matter Who's Who*. The data are now being assembled, but additional entries can still be accepted. If you forgot to fill in the form do it now.

Still in a state of flux is the structuring of the optics community in Europe which makes the task of the **Optics Division** very difficult, although real progress has been made over the past year. A principle objective has been to limit to one the number of all-embracing conferences held in Europe each year. According to the understanding now reached, such a conference plus exhibition will be mounted jointly by EPS, SPIE (the International Society for Optical Engineering) and Europtica, the European association of optical societies (currently being formed). The first will be in Hamburg in 1988. Otherwise the separate parties are free to organise small meetings — topical conferences, workshops for example provided the others are fully informed. There is still though a lot of work to do. The **Quantum Electronics Divi-**

Executive Committee

Following the elections in Council, the Executive Committee of the EPS for the year 1987/1988 comprises:

President:	W. Buckel, Karlsruhe
Vice-President:	R.A. Ricci, Padova
Secretary:	W.J. Merz, Zurich
Vice-Secretary:	N. Kroo, Budapest
Treasurer:	E.W.A. Lingeman, Amsterdam
Vice-Treasurer:	J.M. Gilles, Namur
Members:	L. Cohen, London M. Jacob, Geneva J. Pozhela, Vilnius H. Ryde, Lund E. Skrzypczak, Warsaw

sion is in something of a quandary over the decision of the Americans to make their main meeting (for which the Division has acted as European "broker") annual instead of biennial. There is a strong suspicion that the huge and growing commercial activity in the field is distorting the situation, leading to more meetings of higher cost and lower quality which are squeezing out the universities — in the first place, of course, the students.

The two newest Interdivisional Groups are now finding their feet. Thirteen laboratories are already participating in the **Group on Experimental Physics Control Systems** which has not restricted its ambit to Europe. The laboratories are represented by "link men" and the Group is currently run by a provisional Board of nine members. The first conference of the Group will be in Sept./Oct. this year. Work has started on establishing standards for control methodologies initially concentrating on power converters — a major component in accelerator control particularly. A catalogue is also being compiled of accelerator control systems world-wide, the information being collated at SIN, Switzerland.

The **Group on Physics for Development** has been trying to follow up the recommendations made at the Conference in Istanbul in 1981, on helping less favoured nations to raise their physics levels. The problem is both enormous and difficult and although results have not been spectacular some things are moving. Reference was made to the efforts to set up a francophone network in Africa based on a Belgium/French/Canadian initiative and the Spanish/Portuguese/S.America (plus a few from Africa) School on Cooperative Phenomena in Condensed Matter. The ICPD has

identified as the main topics of development interest in Africa: materials and solar energy. The planning meeting in Nairobi on how to set up appropriate networks scheduled for May of this year will now be held in 1988. A number of ideas are being explored for improving interaction within Europe itself and with this in mind, contact will be made with the newly formed Balkan Physics Union.

Unit Fee

We shall refrain from summarising the very long discussions that centred round the financial situation. Ideas are not lacking for raising income although not all are equally practicable. Support is growing for the notion that the differential between registration fees charged to IOMs at EPS organised conferences and non-members should be of the order of the annual membership fee and that this difference should be paid to EPS. We are, however, still some way from unanimity, the opponents arguing that conferences are the separate responsibility of the Divisions and we have a duty to keep fees to the minimum. Leaving this argument unresolved, Council agreed to put to the vote at its next meeting a rise in the unit fee of one Swiss Franc in order to keep pace with the inflation rate in Switzerland (amongst the lowest in Europe). The rise would become effective at the beginning of 1989, the last rise having been in 1986.

Publications

The Society has finalised the criteria and procedures governing the new cate-

gories of journals that will be recognised by EPS. The Executive Committee had received the final amendments from the *Publications Committee* and approved these at its meeting the same week. The final versions of the relevant documents are being prepared and applications for recognition can be accepted by the Secretariat in Geneva as of now.

Everyone was delighted with the success of *Europhysics Letters* and Nicolas Kurti and his collaborators were warmly congratulated. A few more subscriptions and the accounts will be in balance. The support from different countries in both subscriptions and contributions is still uneven, but this will no doubt become thermalised in due time.

The *European Journal of Physics* seems to have reached a plateau although the present editor J. Pisut is intent on broadening its appeal by soliciting articles, notably those dealing with historical developments and those of a more reflective character.

Future Meetings

The next Council Meeting will be held in Dresden from 26-27 March 1988, following which it will be in Zagreb, 16-17 March 1989, in Athens 30-31 March 1990. There will be the usual meetings in association, notably the third EPS seminar on big research projects in 1989. In conformity with its policy of moving around Europe, the Secretariat would be pleased to receive invitations to the Council for 1991 from societies in the South-West or North-West of the Continent.

General Conference Travel to Helsinki

The following package deals for travel to Helsinki and six nights accommodation from 9 to 15 August, 1987 (bed and continental breakfast) have been negotiated. All prices are per person.

Federal Republic of Germany

From Hamburg DM 1090. – to 1498. –
Düsseldorf 1221. – 1631. –
Frankfurt 1221. – 1631. –
Munich 1485. – 1895. –

double rooms according to hotel. Supplement DM 190. – to 529. – single room.

Contact: Wagons-Lits Reisebüro
Liebfrauenberg 39
D - 6000 Frankfurt/Main

Tel.: (69) 29 51 73/76

France

From Paris FF 4955. – double room
Supplement FF 1145. – single room

Contact: Wagons-Lits Tourisme
2, rue de la Paix
F - 75002 Paris

Tel.: (1) 42 97 54 11

Italy

From Milan LIT 1510000. – double room
Rome 1600000. – double room
Supplement 400000. – single room

Contact: Wagons-Lits Tourisme
Via Abruzzi 3
I - 00198 Roma

Tel.: (6) 475 76 51/2/3

The Netherlands

From Amsterdam
DFL 1150. – to 1270. – double room
1270. – 1890. – single room

Contact: Wagons-Lits Reizen
Groenmarkt 26i
NL - 2513 AL Den Haag

Tel.: (70) 64 44 25

Switzerland

From Geneva SFR 1290. – double room
Zurich 1240. – double room
Supplement 210. – single room

Contact: Wagons-Lits Tourisme
39, rue du Grand-Bureau
CH - 1227 Carouge

Tel.: (22) 42 32 50

Accompanying Persons Programme

Monday: Sightseeing tour of Helsinki
10 Aug. Depart 11h00 / 3 hours
FMK 100. –

Tuesday: Lunch and cruise
11 Aug. Depart 12h00 / 3 hours
FMK 160. – all included

Wednesday: Hvitträsk tour (architecture)
12 Aug. Depart 11h00 / 4 hours
FMK 260. – including lunch

Contact preferably before arrival:

Travel Experts Ltd.
Congress Department, POB 722,
SF - 00101 Helsinki



Postdoctoral Research Associate

Intermediate Energy Physics

The Institute of Intermediate Energy Physics of the ETH-Zürich invites applications for a postdoctoral research associate. This position, which is available immediately, involves research in few nucleon problems using polarized beams and targets at SIN. Candidates should have experience in intermediate energy or nuclear physics using fast electronics and computers (PDP 11, VAX). The position will be for three years with the possibility of a renewal.

Interested candidates should send their resume and arrange to have two letters of recommendation sent to:

Professor W. Grüebler
Institute for Intermediate Energy Physics
ETH-Hönggerberg
CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland.