

of the present prizes into bilateral ones. Any such move, which would be at the origin of regular contacts between two or more physical societies, can be only highly encouraged.

### 1987 Award Winners

We now present the 1987 laureates of the three joint prizes: Edouard Fabre from France for the Holweck prize, Cyril Hilsum from Great Britain, for the Max Born prize and Ernest Wilhelm Otten from Germany, for the Gentner-Kastler prize. We again follow the order of seniority of these prizes which now carry equal prestige.

Edouard Fabre has been leading the laser-plasma group of the Ecole Polytechnique Laboratory in suburban Paris, since 1966. He was among the pioneers in experimenting on the interactions of laser beams with solid targets and eventually to prove the efficiency of plasma heating by this method. Indeed for a long time the efficiency of this heating turned out to be disappointing. It was Fabre's idea that all the effects which conspired at making laser fusion so difficult should highly diminish at short wavelengths. He used non-linear crystals to double and quadruple the radiation frequency. The success this met has strongly influenced the laser fusion programmes all over the world. Fabre has recently achieved his best present results on spherical implosion at short wavelength with a concentration of six beams bringing 140 J onto the target in 0.5 ns. He has stirred a relatively small group into leadership in the field of laser fusion.

Cyril Hilsum is the director of research at the General Electric Company, Wembley, (GEC) and Visiting Professor at the University of Durham in the field of applied physics and electronics. He began his research career in 1947, studying infrared devices with the Admiralty Research Laboratory and spent most of his

*Edouard Fabre receiving at the hands of Godfrey Stafford, President of the British Institute of Physics, the Holweck prize for 1987.*



subsequent career at the Royal Radar Research Establishment, Malvern. He moved to GEC as Chief Scientist in 1983. He has made major contributions in three distinct subject areas: the physics and applications of semi-conductor compounds; infrared and non-linear microwave electronic devices and, more latterly, on visual flat panel displays, based on liquid crystal, electroluminescent and electrochromics techniques. Delegate to Council of the EPS IOMs from 1978-1981, he is prominent in European solid state science, recognized for his contributions to both the basic physics and the engineering of complex electronic devices.

Ernest Wilhelm Otten is Professor at the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz where he moved from Heidelberg in 1972. His scientific work centres around the investigation of the atomic hyperfine structure for the study of nuclear properties, nuclear moments and nuclear radii. He has thus revived this classical field with many new ideas, combining sophisticated optical measurements on accelerator beams at CERN. In his early work in 1960, he extended optical pumping techniques to radioactive nuclei, using asymmetry in  $\beta$  decay as a polarization analyser. He developed the collinear ion beam laser spectroscopy in order to make hyperfine investigations on radium isotopes. His discovery of the odd-even staggering in mercury isotopes, whereby the uneven iso-

topes appear to have a much larger nuclear radius than the neighbouring even isotopes, is particularly important.

Chairman of the EPS Atomic Physics Division from 1979-1981, he is well known for his important experimental achievements in atomic hyperfine spectroscopy applied to unstable isotopes studied on line at an accelerator, namely the CERN Isolde facility. This is an important contribution at the interface of three different fields in physics.

**M. Jacob**  
(CERN)

### Next General Meeting

There is no better occasion for a General Meeting than a General Conference and the Executive Committee proposes that the next such Meeting be held in Amsterdam in conjunction with the 8th General Conference there.

However, there is a technical problem: Rule 12 of the EPS By-Laws states that "the interval between consecutive sessions of the General Meeting should not exceed three years". The recent meeting was held on 12 August and so strictly the next should be held before the middle of August 1990.

The Executive Committee believes that it would be following the spirit of the Rule nevertheless to hold the Meeting during 4-8 September 1990. Any member wishing to lodge a formal objection should do so in writing to the Secretariat before 31 December 1987.

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