GENERAL SCIENCE

Academy Elects Members

Dr. Alexander Wetmore is new home secretary for the "Senate of American science." Drs. Beams and Stakman elected to Council of the Academy.

➤ DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, Smithsonian Institution secretary, was elected home secretary of the National Academy of Sciences at its recent meeting in Washington, D. C.

He will serve a four-year term, beginning July 1, in this non-salaried but highly prized post, succeeding Dr. Fred E. Wright, research physicist with Carnegie Institution of Washington, who has served as home secretary of the Academy for the past 20 years.

Two new members were elected to the Council of the Academy to serve until June 30, 1954: Dr. J. W. Beams, chairman of the school of physics, University of Virginia, and Dr. E. C. Stakman, chief of the division of plant pathology and botany, University of Minnesota.

The newly elected members of the Academy are:

W. C. Allee, head of department of biology, University of Florida, Gainesville; Norris E. Bradbury, director of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, N. M.; Dirk Brouwer, director of Yale Observatory, New Haven; Roy E. Clausen, chairman of division of genetics, University of California, Berkeley; E. DeGolyer, senior partner of DeGolyer and MacNaughton, Dallas; John T. Edsall, associate professor of biological chemistry, Harvard Medical School, Boston; Raymond M. Fuoss, Sterling professor of chemistry, Yale University, New Haven; Ross Gunn, director of division of physical research, U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C.; Harry F. Harlow, chairman of department of psychology, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Columbus O'D. Iselin, senior physical oceanographer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass.; Remington Kellogg, director of U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Robert H. Kent, associate director of Ballistic Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Donald William Kerst, professor of physics, University of Illinois, Urbana; Charles G. King, director of Nutrition Foundation, New York; S. K. Lothrop, curator of Andean Archaeology at Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge; Thomas B. Nolan, assistant director of U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.; E. M. Purcell, professor of physics, Harvard University, Cambridge; A. J. Riker, professor of plant pathology, University of Wisconsin, Madison; H. P. Robertson, professor of mathematical physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena; Frederick D. Rossini, chairman of department of chemistry, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh; Albert B. Sabin, professor of research pediatrics, Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati; Franz Schrader, head of department of zoology, Columbia University, New York; Frederick Seitz, research professor of physics, University of Illinois, Urbana; William Shockley, research physicist at Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N. J.; Thomas G. Thompson, director of Oceanographic Laboratories, University of Washington, Seattle; William S. Tillett, head of department of medicine, New York University College of Medicine, New York; G. T. Whyburn, chairman of department of mathematics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Carl J. Wiggers, professor of physiology, Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland; and W. G. Young, dean of division of physical science, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

New foreign associates elected were:

Pentti Eskola, professor of geology and mineralogy, Helsinki University; Sir Godfrey Thomson, professor of education, Edinburgh University; and Karl von Frisch, director of the Zoological Institute, University of Munich.

Science News Letter, May 5, 1951

GENERAL SCIENCE

Kettle on Stove Stops Shocking Static Sparks

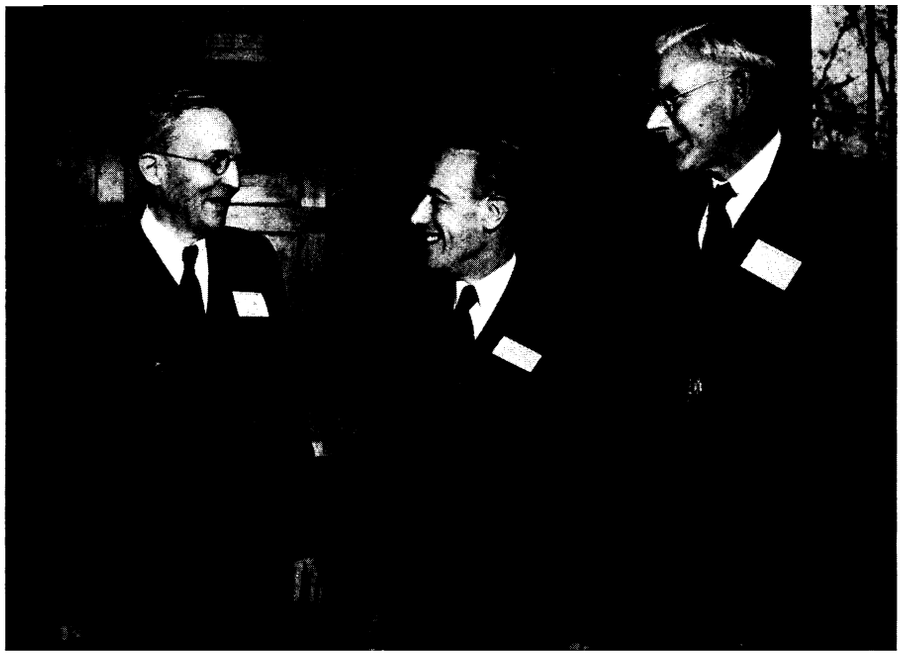
➤ THE SIMPLEST and cheapest way to keep the shocking sparks of static electricity from jumping is to put the kettle on the stove and steam up the room. This solution, known to many housewives, is recommended by the Canadian National Research Council, Ottawa.

A high relative humidity, from 60% to 70%, is needed to make all surfaces in the room slightly conductive due to a thin moisture film that settles on them. Whether a little carbon dioxide must be present in the film is still controversial.

Keeping up the humidity is as effective as electrical grounding of objects and people in a room or the use of semi-conducting material for floors, shoes, etc.

Preventing the miniature flashes of lightning that cause the shocks when you touch door handles in a dry atmosphere is important when explosive fumes from cleaning fluids, anesthetics, gasoline and other substances are present.

Science News Letter, May 5, 1951



ACADEMY OFFICIALS—National Academy of Sciences officers, Dr. Fred Wright, retiring home secretary; Dr. Detlev Bronk, president, and Dr. Alexander Wetmore, new home secretary, discuss plans during the recent meeting of the Academy