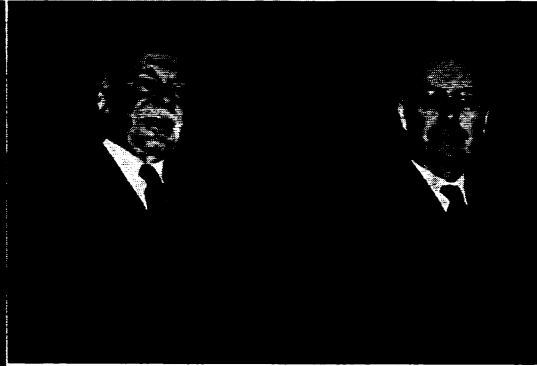


ACADEMICIANS

At the spring meetings of the National Academy of Sciences—Dr. Ross G. Harrison, chairman, National Research Council and trustee of Science Service (above). Entering the lobby (above, center) are Dr. Frank R. Lillie, president of the Academy, and Dr. John C. Merriam, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.



PETITIONERS

Discussing a petition to President Roosevelt on the Spanish situation are (lower center) Dr. Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory, Dr. Harold C. Urey, Columbia University, and Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary, AAAS. Listening intently (above) are Dr. R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology and Dr. Gano Dunn, of New York City.

tween the volcanoes and the molten interior Dr. Daly called by a new name, "abyssoliths," meaning bottomless stone. An abyssolith carries to the surface molten rock material, with steam and other gases under great pressure. These gases are the real explosives that supply motive power to volcanoes, he said. When the abyssolith's supply of them is spent the volcano "goes out."

The molten interior of the earth is of course not to be thought of as a liquid sloshing around like water in a jug. If it were at the surface, it might be liquid; the material is hot enough so that at least some of it would flow freely. But buried at great depths as it is, the molten interior mass is under such terrific pressure that it is held to a steely rigidity. In terms of the surface the interior can be stated only as a paradox: molten, yet stiff.

Electrical Rivers

Vast electrical rivers several hundred miles wide flow through the thin atmosphere between 60 and 90 miles above the earth in the polar regions, Dr. A. G. McNish of the Carnegie Institution of Washington stated. He has recently conducted a study of these currents by means of a new method of mathematical analysis.

The currents flow westward along the auroral zone, a belt about 1,500 miles

from the North and South Poles. They appear during magnetic storms and are attributed to the action of particles projected through space from the sun. These particles also give rise to the auroral displays. During the most intense magnetic storms the auroral zone shifts to lower latitudes and the currents flow in more southerly regions.

This accounts for the interruption of radio and wired communications during several severe magnetic storms that occurred last year, Dr. McNish explained.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1938

PHYSICS

Cosmic Rays Operate Radioteletypewriter

COSMIC rays and ultra short radio waves were combined to operate a radioteletypewriter in a novel exhibit in Rochester, N. Y.

Speeding across interstellar space from the most distant galaxy, the cosmic rays register their passage on a Geiger-Mueller counter, which in turn operates a relay to supply an initiating impulse to operate a radiotype. The radiotype machine receives news bulletins distributed by one of the major news services. The exhibit is sponsored by the International Business Machines Corporation, one of whose electric typewriters is included in the radiotype circuit.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1938

GENERAL SCIENCE

Harrison, Murphy, Riegel Science Service Trustees

THREE new trustees of Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science, were elected at its annual meetings in Washington.

Dr. Ross G. Harrison, chairman of the National Research Council, will become one of the representatives of that organization on Science Service's governing body. Dr. Harrison is director of the Osborn Zoological Laboratory at Yale University.

O. W. Riegel, director of the Lee School of Journalism at Washington and Lee University, was named one of the trustees representing the newspaper profession. J. Edwin Murphy, managing editor of the Baltimore Evening Sun, is the third new trustee. He also represents journalism.

Science Service, established by the late E. W. Scripps, newspaper publisher and philanthropist, to bring before the public authoritative accounts of the achievements of science, is governed by a board of trustees containing 15 members, representing scientific organizations, the Scripps estate and the newspaper world.

Dr. Robert Andrews Millikan, California Institute of Technology Nobel