JOURNAL OF THE

Tennessee Academy of Science

VOLUME XXXIV

APRIL, 1959

NUMBER 2



DOCTOR ROBERT T. LAGEMANN

DR. ROBERT T. LAGEMANN 1959 President of the Tennessee Academy of Science

Dr. Robert T. Lagemann was born August 31, 1912, at Marion, Ohio, and received his early education in various small towns in the Middle West. Following his graduation from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1934, he went to Vanderbilt University as a teaching fellow in physics, where he received the M.S. degree in 1935 and stayed on to teach an additional year. He then received a teaching assistantship at the Ohio State University where he remained until he received the Ph.D. degree in 1940. His thesis was on the "Infrared Spectrum of Methyl Iodide" and he has since published intermittently in the field or infrared spectroscopy. While at Ohio State he married Marjorie Plummer who received degrees in Chemistry and Science Education at Ohio State.

For one year he taught at Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia, before going to Emory University for a period of ten years, 1941-1951. This appointment was interrupted for two years, 1942-1943, which he spent at Columbia University as a physicist on the Manhattan Propect. There he was a member of the group which devised the barrier used in the separation of the uranium isotopes in the K-25 diffusion plant at Oak Ridge. Since 1951 he has been Professor of Physics and Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University.

He has done research in the structure of molecules as elucidated by infrared absorption and more recently has studied the velocity and absorption of compressional waves in liquids and

gases.

While at Emory, he was secretary, and later, president of the local chapter of Sigma Xi, and in 1951, President of the Georgia Academy of Science. From 1950-57 he was Treasurer of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society, and in 1957-58 the Chairman. From 1949-51 and from 1953 onward he has been a member of the Council of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, and is presently serving as Chairman. He is now serving a second one-year term as Treasurer of the National Science Teachers Association and is a member of its Commission on Education in the Basic Sciences.

In 1947 he was a guest scholar at Columbia University and in 1954 held a Ford Faculty Fellowship at Harvard University.

As a diversion he collects letters, pictures, and biographical works of famous physicists.