

Dr. Joseph Mayer elected Vice President of American Physical Society

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Dr. Joseph E. Mayer, professor of chemistry at UCSD, has been elected vice president of the American Physical Society. Mayer's election to the post means he automatically will become president of the society next year.

"This is a very prestigious award," said a spokesman for the UCSD department of chemistry. "The presidency of the society usually is given to a physicist, and it is unusual for a chemist to be so honored."

The American Physical Society was founded in 1899. It presently has some 26,000 members nationwide, and a staff of 50 which operates out of headquarters in New York City. Membership includes educators, industrial and governmental research workers, and students in physics and related fields such as mathematics, astronomy, engineering and chemistry.

Mayer has received numerous honors, and last year was cited by the American Chemical Society for "outstanding achievement in the teaching of chemistry." Yale and Columbia universities have granted him medals for exceptional achievements in his field. Mayer's principal research interests have been in quantum mechanics and statistical mechanics applied to chemical systems. He is particularly noted for his development of the statistical mechanics of imperfect gases, which led to his theory of condensation.

Mayer, a native of New York, received his B.S. degree in 1924 from the California Institute of Technology, and his Ph.D. in 1927 from the University of California at Berkeley. He has taught at Johns Hopkins, Columbia and the University of Chicago, and has been on the UCSD faculty since 1960.

Mayer's wife is Dr. Maria Goeppert Mayer, UCSD professor of physics, who won the Nobel prize for physics in 1963. The Mayers reside in La Jolla.

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