

little electrical power. Present machines can perform almost one million operations per second and computers under development will be even faster than this. Machines are under study that will understand the human voice, while in existence already is a machine that will talk to you.

After this final lecture students split into groups to visit computer installations in Calgary. They visited an LGP 30 at CES Computer Services, an RPC 4000 at Texaco Oil Company and at the Royal McBee Company, a 1620 at International Business Machines, an IBM 650 at Shell Oil Company, and an IBM 1410 at Imperial Oil Company. At each installation the group was shown the computer and its peripheral equipment. Demonstrations were also seen showing the computer at work and at play. A questionnaire completed by the students indicated that the conference was well accepted. Many indicated that they would like to see something similar for other professions. It is hoped that this conference will become an annual event.

A SUMMER AT STANFORD, by H. F. McCall

Editor's Note: Dr. McCall, principal of Seba Beach School, was awarded the Shell Merit Fellowship last year. We plan to include an article by him in our June issue.

The chance to be a Shell Fellow and participate in the Stanford activities of this special group of science and mathematics teachers chosen by the Shell Oil Company does not come to everyone, but it did come to me. It might come to you too if you entice Lady Luck a little, say, by showing your interest in this program and making inquiries from Shell Merit Fellowships, School of Education, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

The eight-week program at Stanford is designed specifically for the Shell Fellows, a total of about 50 science and mathematics teachers, five of whom are from Western Canada and the rest from the United States west of the Mississippi.

For part of the day all of the group were together. Then for the rest of the time we were separated into three groups - the physics, chemistry, and mathematics sections, for specialized work in those

fields. While together, we dealt with many things from all three fields.

The value of the specialized work in the various fields will be obvious to anyone. But the time spent together, whether in semi-formal discussions with outstanding world figures in education, science or mathematics, or whether in informal discussions with each other, had values of many different kinds - values which, in some cases, would be more difficult to measure, but which, in practically all cases, were tremendous. No effort was spared to bring us leaders in every field, Nobel Prize winners where possible; nor was any effort spared to take us to the finest research laboratories. These included the High Energy Physics Laboratory (Stanford), Radiation Laboratory (University of California at Berkeley), Plant Biology Laboratory (Carnegie Foundation), Computer Laboratory, Radio Astronomy Institute, and others no less exciting and inspiring in various areas of chemistry.

The opportunity to participate in such stimulating study and exchange of ideas is one which would serve Alberta teachers well.

EXPERIMENTAL CLASSES IN GRADE VII MATHEMATICS, by L. C. Pallesen

Editor's Note: Mr. Pallesen is supervisor for Division III, Calgary Public School Board.

Under the direction of the Junior High School Mathematics Subcommittee of the Department of Education, ten Calgary Grade VII classes took part in experimental work in mathematics. They were part of a group of 30 classes over the whole province using a new text, Seeing Through Mathematics, published by W. J. Gage, Ltd. The publishers have designed this text to be a sequel to the Seeing Through Arithmetic series which has recently been authorized for the Alberta elementary schools.

Because of the authorization of this new series in the elementary schools the Junior High School Mathematics Subcommittee feels it must consider the changing of the junior high school text. It would be the hope of the subcommittee that a text might be found which would continue to develop ideas along the lines of the elementary texts and would at the same time introduce some of the ideas of the "new" or