The Planet Earth:

General Program and Philippine Participation in the International Geophysical Year

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THIS year (1956) is the centenary year of the birth of J.J. Thomson, called the father of electron physics. As a professor and as a researcher his contributions to the advance of theoretical and experimental physics find their place in the permanent history of the science. His pupils from the Cavendish school carried on his work and at one time they held a large fraction of the physics professorships around the world. For J. J. Thomson "the two great qualities of a physicist that really mattered were originality and enthusiasm; and although he rated originality extremely high, it was enthusiasm which stood at the top."[1] According to this standard many high calibre physicists and geophysicists are expected to be developed in the next two years, for enthusiasm is at a high level for the geophysical sciences. Attacks on problems which were hitherto at best only dreamed about are underway in an effort which goes by the general title of the International Geophysical Year. We shall speak of this as IGY.

[1] *Physics Today* IX, No. 8 (August 1956) p. 23. G. P. Thomson, the son of J. J. Thomson received the Nobel prize in physics in 1937. The father was awarded the Nobel prize (1906) for showing the particle characteristics of the electron; the son for showing the wave characteristics. A symposium was held this year (1956) at the University of Maryland to commemorate the hundredth birthday of the father.