

solved them with accounts of the family circle, their travels at home and abroad and their interactions with their very wide circle of friends.

Having known Bragg, I was delighted to read Hunter's account, which succeeds in bringing him to life, contrasting the leaps of imagination with which he solved a succession of scientific problems with his 'ordinariness' and humility, as shown by his readiness to talk to juniors as equals and his clear enjoyment of lecturing to children. This first biography of Bragg is an excellent read.

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## books received

The following books have been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works either because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay or in order to inform readers prior to publication of the full review.

**X-ray Compton scattering.** By Malcolm J. Cooper, Peter E. Mijnarends, Nobuhiro Shiotani, Nobuhiko Sakai and Arun Bansil. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. XVII + 374. Price GBP 95.10. ISBN 0 19 850168 4.

This book provides condensed matter and materials physicists with an authoritative, up-to-date, and very accessible account of the Compton scattering method, leading to a fundamental understanding of the electronic

and magnetic properties of solid materials, both elements and compounds. *Contents:* 1. M. J. Cooper: Compton scattering as a probe of electron density distributions; 2. W. Schülke: The theory of Compton scattering; 3. H. Kawata and N. Shiotani: Instrumentation for synchrotron radiation based photon sources; 4. S. Manninen: Instrumentation for laboratory based photon sources; 5. E. Zukowski: Processing of experimental data; 6. N. K. Hansen: The reconstruction of momentum density; 7. L. Dobrzynski: Momentum density studies by the maximum entropy method; 8. P. E. Mijnarends, Y. Kubo, B. Barbiellini, A. Bansil: Momentum density studies in crystalline solids: theory; 9. N. Shiotani: Experimental studies of momentum density in metals and alloys; 10. N. Sakai: Spin-dependent Compton scattering; 11. N. Shiotani, H. Fretwell, M. J. Cooper: Compton scattering and the allied techniques.