

tron radiation sources to radio-isotope sources. A diverse range of detection systems are also to be used.

All laboratories participating in the project will receive standard specimens from the project organizers and will be required to answer detailed questions about their equipment, techniques of measurement and their analysis of the experimental results. The first specimen will be silicon. Later specimen sets will include germanium, magnesium and pyrolytic graphite.

Any laboratory interested in participating in the project should contact: Dr D. C. Creagh, Chairman, IUCr X-ray Attenuation Project, Physics Department, Royal Military College, Duntroon, ACT 2600, Australia.

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### Change of publisher of *Structure Reports, Molecular Structures and Dimensions* and other publications

As from 1 January 1980, D. Reidel Publishing Company, PO Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands, has taken over the publication and sales of all the publications of the International Union of Crystallography previously handled by Bohn, Scheltema and Holkema. These publications include *Structure Reports, Molecular Structures and Dimensions, Symmetry Aspects of M. C. Escher's Periodic Drawings, Fifty Years of X-ray Diffraction, Early Papers on Diffraction of X-rays by Crystals*, and miscellaneous other publications of the Union such as the bibliographies and the *Index of Crystallographic Supplies*. Orders for all these publications may be placed direct with the publishers or with Polycrystal Book Service, PO Box 11567, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, USA or with any bookseller.

## Book Reviews

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

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### Очерки о свойствах кристаллов. М. П. Шасколская (*Essays on properties of crystals*). By M. P. Shaskolskaya). Pp. 189, Figs 114. Moscow: Nauka, 1979. Price Rb 0.30.

Although this book is a logical continuation of the volume *Crystals* by the same author, it may however be treated and read quite independently. It is addressed to a wide circle of readers interested in science and technology.

In a simple and interesting way the *Essays* present the connections between symmetry and physical properties of crystals, describe their applications in science and technology and show new possibilities for obtaining attractive materials.

The first ten chapters deal with crystal structure and symmetry. The next two parts give interesting examples of how crystallographic knowledge can be used to answer some practical questions in computer electronics or to solve such problems as those connected with defence against hailstorms or with retention of the tetragonal phase in tin materials.

The next chapter starts with an explanation of the Curie law governing the symmetry of the physical properties of crystals and is followed by a description of the preparation and application of single crystals such as those of Seignete salt, quartz and barium titanate. Examples of piezoelectric ceramics are also dealt with here.

The following three chapters give a description of optical properties of crystals, mainly of the electro-optical effect and its technological applications such as

the investigation of strains in materials and transparent-model studies of metal constructions.

The last part is devoted to the defects observed in real crystal structures: surface and interface defects, dislocations and point defects. It shows the various applications, mainly in electronics, that the new crystalline materials have. It is also shown that the knowledge of structure allows the design of new materials with desired properties and may give rise to the development of new technologies.

The historical approach to the subject permits the reader to follow the development of ideas and applications and to realise the contributions some individual scientists have made to this progress.

The author shows herself as a master of simple and yet attractive presentation of the problems of crystal physics and their contributions to technical progress.

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### Book Received

*The following book has been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.*

**Solar cells. Their science, technology, applications and economics.** Editors: T. Coutts, L. L. Kazmerski and S. Wagner. A new international journal, published quarterly from November 1979. Lausanne: Elsevier Sequoia. Price (Vol. 1, four issues) Swiss F 160.00, approx. US \$ 97.00.