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sary for producing p-n or n-p-n junctions in semiconductors. Single crystal growth is readily accomplished as a valued incidental.

An excellent balance between theory and practice is maintained throughout, and the references cite all of the important work to date. Not the least valuable part of the book is the collection of theoretical zone-refining curves reproduced in the appendix. These give the relative solute concentration versus distance along the ingot for various values of the distribution coefficient and number of zone passes.

This is a book which should have lasting value for all metallurgists, chemists, and physicists who are confronted with the problem of controlling the chemical composition of crystalline solids.

Elementare Neutronenphysik. By K. Wirtz and K. H. Beckurts. 243 pp. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Germany, 1958. Paperbound DM 49.60. Reviewed by Hans Bichsel, University of Washington.

Mr. Wirtz, director of a reactor school in Karlsruhe (Germany), together with Mr. Beckurts has written an introduction to the methods of a laboratory for neutron physics. This is a laboratory in which quantities like neutron flux, diffusion length, Fermi age, and absorption cross sections are measured in connection with the investigation of reactors and reactor techniques.

The first half of the book deals with the theory of diffusion and transport of neutrons. After a general discussion of the necessary concepts such as neutron flux (the words "Neutronenfeld" and "Neutronenfluss" are used in the text) and diffusion, a number of elementary problems for the diffusion equation are neatly solved. Scattering and spatial distribution of neutrons in various media are dealt with in the following chapters.

In the second half of the book the measurement of neutron fluxes and diffusion lengths is treated. Chapters 7 and 8 are concerned with neutron detection. Only one section deals with prompt detectors in a very abbreviated form, while nine sections are devoted to the thorough discussion of induced radioactivity and its production in various detectors. Chapter 9 gives a number of methods for the absolute determination of neutron fluxes and neutron yields of several neutron sources. The last three chapters discuss the measurement of diffusion length and neutron temperature for a stationary case in a moderator and pulsed neutron sources and fields. The treatment of the subject matter is not always at an elementary level; it is nevertheless clear. Ample references for further reading are given at the end of each chapter.

The title of the book may be somewhat misleading to a nuclear physicist insofar as "neutron physics" to him in general would refer to the study of the properties of the neutron, cross sections, neutron production, neutron reactions, and neutron detection with prompt detectors. Very little space in the book is devoted to



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this kind of neutron physics: in the first two chapters a number of the concepts are presented concisely enough. In the discussion of neutron production with nuclear reactions, several of the Q-values listed do not agree with the values generally accepted in this country (e.g. the reaction  $B^{11}$  ( $\alpha$ , n)  $N^{14}$  has a Q-value of 0.154 Mev, listed in the book is 0.28 Mev). It has not been checked whether similar inaccuracies occur at other places.

A useful annex gives data about radiation protection. integration of neutron flux in finite volumes, tables for radioactive decay, and tables of cross sections. In a list of symbols used in the text, it would be convenient to have the English equivalents of the German terms. which, according to the author, were derived from the English-American terminology. If that were done, no confusion would occur in translation back to the original language.

Physics of Nuclear Fission: Supplement No. 1 of the Soviet Journal Atomnaya Energiya. Translated from Russian by J. E. S. Bradley. 182 pp. Pergamon Press, London & New York, 1958. \$9.00. Reviewed by E. R. Rae, A.E.R.E., Harwell, England.

This book is a translation of a special supplement to the Soviet Journal Atomnaya Energiya containing the papers read at a conference on the physics of nuclear fission, held in January 1956 at the Atomic Energy Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The conference papers cover many aspects of fission, and report the work done in this field in many countries, including much Russian work otherwise inaccessible to the English-speaking reader. Larger numbers of experimental results are listed, compared, and criticized, the topics discussed including, among others, fission cross sections, asymmetry of fragment masses, angular distributions, neutrons from fission, emissive fission, spontaneous fission, and photo-fission.

Since the book contains twelve relatively independent papers, there is inevitably some repetition of data and argument; there is also the more serious criticism that the conference on which the book is based took place over two years ago, and so certain important recent development which have a bearing on fission physics received little or no attention. For example, the behavior of fission cross sections in the reasonance region, and Aage Bohr's channel analysis of fission are mentioned only briefly, and Porter and Thomas' analysis of the distribution of fission widths in the resonance region appeared too late to be mentioned at all.

The translation from the Russian is, on the whole, very good and the English reads easily. Unfortunately this is not everywhere true, and there are places, particularly in the first paper (see for example the first half of page 8) where the meaning of the text is obscure, and the fault would appear to be that of the translator.

There can be no doubt that there is a need for a review of the present state of knowledge on fission.