

the fission reactor in future world power supplies is stressed. In the final chapter, the progress in the study of fusion reactions is reviewed up to early 1957, and the author ends on the optimistic note that a method of operating controlled thermonuclear reactions must surely be found before the exhaustion of the world supplies of uranium and thorium.

Certainly there is little in this book which has not already appeared in print, but in this case the information has been collected from a large number of sources and has been pieced together into a fascinating narrative by an author who is a master of the art of teaching. Professor Thirring's book, which contains 96 illustrations, a large number of tables, and which is fully documented, will undoubtedly be avidly read (as was intended) by a public ranging from secondary-school boys to industrial managers. One suspects that this public might also contain quite a few professional physicists.

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