PUBLISHING NEWS

Magnetic Materials Digest

The first issue of a projected series of annual guides to the literature of magnetic materials has been published on an experimental basis under the aegis of the 1961 Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials (held in Phoenix last November under the joint sponsorship of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the American Institute of Physics). Entitled *Magnetic Materials Digest, 1960,* the volume covers articles that have appeared in foreign and domestic journals as well as papers published in full in the proceedings of conferences. It also contains a section of brief comments on relevant books and meetings.

The new *Digest* is an outgrowth of what was once a chapter on magnet materials in the *Digest of Literature on Dielectrics,* a yearly compilation prepared by the Conference on Electrical Insulation and published by the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. In view of the increasing volume of literature on dielectrics, the magnetics chapter was finally eliminated, and the organizing committees of the annual AIEE-AIP Conferences on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials thereupon took the initiative in sponsoring the magnetic digest as a separate publication. After the idea had been enthusiastically endorsed by Conference registrants in 1960, it was decided that the first issue of *Magnetic Materials Digest* would be sponsored by the Conference in 1961 on a trial basis. If the experiment is successful, publication will continue as an annual service to Conference registrants. The first issue, edited by J. C. Slonczewski and W. Palmer, has been issued as a 208-page paperbound volume and can be purchased for $2 from the American Institute of Physics, 335 E. 45th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Spectral-Line Intensities

Tables of spectral-line intensities, compiled by William F. Meggers, Charles H. Corliss, and Bourdon F. Scribner, are being published by the National Bureau of Standards. The work will appear in two parts, of which the second (*Tables of Spectral-Line Intensities, Part II, Arranged by Wavelengths,* NBS Monograph 32) has already been published. The first part will list the same lines by elements.

In an introduction describing the data-gathering procedures, the authors note that the project originated in a desire to aid the application of spectrographic techniques to quantitative chemical analysis. According to the authors' statement, the present work is the first appearance in the literature of determinations of the intensities of the lines of different elements according to a uniform scale. The data may therefore be used in determining the proportions of different elements present in a sample.

The currently available second part of the work lists in two tables the intensities of 39 000 lines of 70 elements. A main table includes them all, and a table of strongest lines lists a number of very bright lines which have been abstracted from the larger table. A nine-page introduction (which will also appear in Part I) relates the origin of the work, describes the methods by which the data were gathered, and makes suggestions for their application. The book is hardbound, 272 pages long, and is sold for $3 by the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

The Hubble Atlas

When Edwin Hubble died in September 1953, he left only a fragmentary record of the latest revision of his system for the classification of galaxies, a project that had taken him fourteen years to complete. The revision was to have appeared in a galactic atlas with photographs to illustrate the classification scheme, but its form had not been fully defined. The laborious task of reconstructing the work was subsequently undertaken by Allan Sandage, who had served for two years as Hubble's assistant at the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories. As a final result, the revised classification system and the compilation of photographs now exist in a bound volume published last fall under the title, *The Hubble Atlas of Galaxies.*

Both in illustrations and text, the atlas represents Dr. Sandage's reconstruction of Hubble's work as interpreted in the light of data obtained since 1953. In his preface, Sandage observes that his role was mainly that of an editor, ". . . not an editor of a manuscript but rather an editor of a set of ideas and conclusions that were implicit in the notes, in Hubble's grouping of galaxies into lists, in his notations on plate envelopes, in conversations with him from 1949 to 1953, and in the scheme as it emerged from inspection of the same material that he had used to define his system. . . . There is hope that this atlas is close to what Hubble himself had planned to publish. The format, the choice of galaxies to illustrate, the descriptions of these galaxies, and the division and notation of the subgroups were not specified by Hubble, but the present atlas may be an approximation to his original design for an illustrated volume."

The book's two chapters occupy 32 pages of text. The first chapter offers a swiftly paced sketch of that part of the history of astronomy which has had to do with galaxies. The second consists of a detailed description of the classification system, followed by