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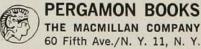
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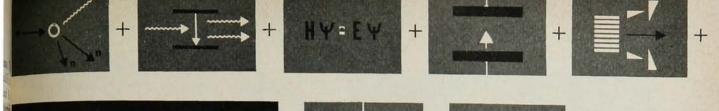
the literature or in hard-to-locate dissertations. The last two articles both deal largely with nonequilibrium problems. The article by Mori, Oppenheim, and Ross is concerned with the distribution-function formulation of the theory of strongly interacting fluids. The article by Dresden, on the other hand, deals extensively with very simple model calculations designed to elucidate the mathematics of irreversibility (but not necessarily the physics).

In my opinion, this volume represents an extremely valuable contribution to the growing literature of statistical mechanics and sets a standard which other collections should attempt to achieve. The only demurrer I wish to enter concerns the time lag in publication. The translation of the book by Bogoliubov was available in preprint form three years ago and Mori, Oppenheim, and Ross comment in a footnote that their article was completed in 1959. There is little excuse for such a long delay in publication. Fortunately, the particular articles in this volume have a timeless quality which makes them valuable, but the publisher has no guarantee that this will be the case in the future. Greater efforts should be made in the future to publish succeeding volumes more promptly.

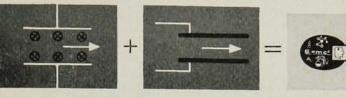
Handbook of Astronautical Engineering. Heinz Hermann Koelle, ed. 1814 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, 1961. \$27.50. Reviewed by R. E. Street, University of Washington.

HERE is the first real handbook in the field of astronautical engineering. The distinguished editorial board, and the fact that the list of contributors includes enough of the best engineers and scientists actively engaged in pushing back the frontiers of space, is sufficient to this reviewer to enable him to categorically state that this volume will be, for some time at least, an authoritative reference. He does not claim to have read all of the book; 1800 pages are just too many. However, sampling sections of greatest interest, it appears that in most of the chapters the basic equations are clearly derived and, if not in full detail, references are made to the original publications. The figures are good and sufficient, and the applications are indicated without too much emphasis upon the hardware. The result is a well-balanced compendium of fundamental data and theory which will be useful to students and designers of spacecraft. The scientist concerned with the development of experiments in space will also find much useful information here as well.

Broken down into six parts and twenty-eight chapters, all of the scientific, engineering, and human aspects of space flight are included. This means that there is considerable information on orbits, trajectories, all forms of propulsion, navigation, vehicle design, and operations. Most chapters, like the ones on aerodynamics, propulsion, and design, give a large number of formulae for the simpler cases without derivation,



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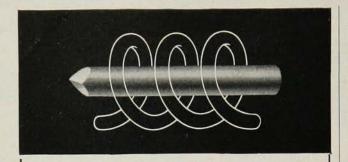
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Synthetic Sapphires • Ruby Lasers & Masers Alumina Powder while a few of the chapters like the ones on trajectories and orbits give a greater amount of theoretical and mathematical development. It is intended to be a handbook for engineers and in this respect it succeeds very well, since the majority of articles follow the avowed policy of being practical and informative.

To quote from the Foreword by W. von Braun: ". . . the book will help to advance the state of the art at an even faster rate, and will bring us closer to the final goal: Manned Conquest of Space."

The Theory of Probability. By B. V. Gnedenko. Transl. from Russian by B. D. Seckler. 459 pp. Chelsea Publishing Co., New York, 1962. \$8.75. Reviewed by T. Teichmann, General Atomic Division, General Dynamics Corporation.

THE theory of probability is an outstanding example of the natural combination of mathematical ideas and scientific thought, and its content in each of these areas is so significant that any treatment necessarily concentrates on one or the other of them. Gnedenko's book is aimed at the mathematical aspects of the theory, but a number of examples discussed in the text (as well as those at the end of chapters) serve to make it a very useful introduction to the application of the theory in several important areas of physics and statistics.

The introductory section of the book, dealing with the basic concepts and different possible approaches to the theory (including the axiomatic), is distinguished by its clarity, and a number of illuminating examples ("paradoxes"), as well as by several unnecessary dialectical interpretations ("realism" vs. "idealism"). Fortunately, there are only one or two additional irritations of this type in the rest of the book. The treatment then proceeds to sequences of independent trials, Markov chains, random variables, distribution functions, and laws of large numbers. The latter are clearly presented, but are given only in the limiting forms with no error estimates (e.g., no law of the iterated logarithm). There follows a discussion of mathematical problems related to continuous distributions, including characteristic functions, positive functions, limit theorems, and infinitely divisible distributions. The penultimate chapter on stochastic processes and the Kolmogorov equations includes an elegant and instructive discussion of Birkhoff's ergodic theory. The book concludes with a rather general description of statistical estimation with details given for normal distributions. There are some useful tables, and an extensive bibliography including an unusual number of references to non-Russian contributions! The translation is good (i.e., English, not transliterated Russian!), though it is surprising that it was not found necessary to use the words "sample" or "sample space". The printing and type are up to Western standards, unlike many other recent Russian translations.

It is worthwhile comparing this treatment with Feller's An Introduction to Probability Theory and its