

PUBLISHING NEWS

PR Letters

A survey to determine whether material originally published in *Physical Review Letters* has subsequently been treated in greater detail in other publications was recently completed by the Documentation Research Project of the American Institute of Physics. The study was carried out under the direction of Hugh C. Wolfe and Pauline Atherton at the request of S. A. Goudsmit, managing editor of the *American Physical Society*.

Questionnaires were sent to the authors of 409 letters (the total published in the journal during 1961) asking whether, where, and when further publication had occurred. Of the 377 authors who responded, 217 (57 percent) indicated that no subsequent report had been published. The responses were tabulated according to the categories assigned to the papers by *Physics Abstracts*. Nearly half of the letters dealt with elementary particles, low-temperature physics, or magnetic properties of solids. A study of the placement of abstracts in *Physics Abstracts* showed that work in those three fields was the subject of 199 of the 409 letters, but in only 82 cases were the same results the subjects of later, more extensive, publications. In all, work reported in 162 of the 409 papers was the subject of further publication. Seventy of the follow-up articles appeared in *The Physical Review*, and the balance was divided among 28 other journals and the proceedings of fifteen conferences. Although the survey did not explain why so few letters were followed by articles, it is the opinion of the editors that one reason may be that many letters subsequently prove to be obsolete or even incorrect.

The fact that more than half of the letters published in *Physical Review Letters* in 1961 were not followed by more detailed articles published elsewhere does not coincide with the aims of the letters journal, which was originally conceived as a medium for the rapid dissemination of research results prior to the formal publication of research articles. At the annual meeting

of the American Documentation Institute in October of last year, George L. Trigg, assistant editor of *Physical Review Letters*, expressed the following views in his discussion of letters journals:

"The intent is to increase the speed with which a worker in a rapidly changing field of research may be apprised of those developments most likely to affect his work. . . . There are two things that these journals are not, and are not intended to become. . . : 'current awareness' journals and 'preliminary results' journals. Presumably a worker in any field could learn from a 'current awareness' journal what is the current focus of attention in his field. The journals being discussed here, however, deliberately restrict their coverage to rapidly changing fields of endeavor, so that there are substantial areas that will rarely be represented. . . . 'Letters' can be short because they deal only with limited aspects of an experiment or a theoretical development.

"This implies—properly, in the view of the editors of *Physical Review Letters*—that virtually every 'Letter' should be followed by a fully detailed and complete article."

Physical Review Survey

In another survey instigated by The American Physical Society, 21 000 members were asked their opinion concerning separate subscription to the two sections of *The Physical Review* and the division of subject matter in Sections A and B. Forty percent had responded by July 15. At present, subscribers receive both sections. Members were asked if they favor separate subscriptions, and 57 percent said yes while 33 percent said no (another 10 percent did not answer that question on the questionnaire).

Members were asked which sections they would subscribe to: 34 percent would take Section A, 19 percent would take Section B, and 18 percent would take both sections. Twenty-four percent indicated they would not

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subscribe; 5 percent did not answer the question.

Three percent of the present subscribers indicated that they would not subscribe to either Section A or B if *The Physical Review* were split, and four percent did not answer the question. Thirty-two percent of the subscribers indicated they would subscribe to both A and B.

About 44 percent of the nonsubscribers indicated that they would subscribe either to Section A (32 percent), Section B (10 percent), or both A and B (2 percent).

The members were also asked to recommend the section suitable for various subjects. Over seventy percent of those replying to the question on how to section *The Physical Review* favored a split placing in Section A classical physics, electromagnetism, thermal and statistical physics, atomic physics, molecular physics, fluids, and solids in general. They favored placing in Section B range and energy loss, nuclei in general, nuclear moments, cosmic rays, elementary particles, and general field theory.

Conference Proceedings

The proceedings of an unclassified Symposium on Radar Reflectivity Measurements, which was held June 2-4, 1964, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are now available. The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of the MIT Lincoln Laboratory with the cooperation of seven other nonprofit and government organizations.

No formal papers were read at the Symposium; contributed papers were published and distributed to participants in advance, to insure adequate opportunity for discussion throughout the meeting. The collection of eighty-seven papers was published in two volumes, totaling 920 pages, by the Rome Air Development Center of the Air Force Systems Command. Properly qualified requesters may obtain copies through the Defense Documentation Center, Alexandria, Va., by referring to AD601364 (Vol. I) and AD601365 (Vol. II). Alternatively, they may be purchased from the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Papers presented at the 1963 Seminar on Unified Theories of Elementary Particles, which was held at the University of Rochester, have been published in a single volume.

The 1963 seminar was the second of its kind (the preceding one met in 1960 also at Rochester) and was sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the Atomic Energy Commission.

The *Proceedings*, containing 24 papers, were edited by D. Lurie and N. Mukunda and form a paperbound volume of 421 pages. The book can be purchased for \$6 by ordering AD 600 502 from OTS, US Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Transcripts of a Conference on Organic Lasers, held on May 25 at the General Telephone and Electronics Laboratories in Bayside, N.Y., are now available.

The conference was sponsored jointly by the Office of Naval Research and the GT&E Laboratories. About fifty participants were invited to hear six papers on the use of organic and metallo-organic luminescence for laser applications. In the afternoon, a discussion was held under the chairmanship of Professor D. Fox of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Copies of the transcript are available on request from Dr. A. Lempicki, General Telephone and Electronics Laboratories, 208-20 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside 60, N.Y.

Optical industry directory

The Optical Publishing Company of Lenox, Mass., has announced the release of the tenth anniversary issue of the *Optical Industry and Systems Directory*. The present issue covers over a thousand US companies dealing in optical instrumentation and design, listing their activities under more than a thousand categories. It amplifies previous directories by the addition of over 400 suppliers and a more extensive breakdown of the information by categories. The volume is a 406-page paperback and can be ordered from the Optical Publishing Co., Inc., Lenox, Mass., for \$10.00 in the US or \$12.50 elsewhere.