

fields of thin films and integrated electronics.

In chapters 1 and 2 of this book the properties of passive and active thin-film circuit elements are discussed. These sections contain a detailed description of the properties of matter in very thin films and the research done in this field; it gives the facts and sometimes the know-how, but it states only what has been done and does not go very deep into the physical behavior of the materials applied in thin films. The first chapter on passive elements gives about 120 references, the second on active components mixes a little bit of integrated solid-state devices with thin-film active elements, but it does not provide very much knowledge in this field.

Chapter 3 deals with semi-conductor integrated circuits and discusses technological problems of isolation in solid-state regions. In a second part we find some remarks on manufacturing and packaging problems. Chapter 4 consumes about one third of the book and deals with vacuum deposition apparatus and techniques. The discussion of the equipment for thin-film production is insufficiently broad and thus not adequate to the space it consumes in the book. In chapter 5 on thin-film monitoring techniques we find not very much more than a review of this very important field in thin-film manufacture.

The last chapter is entitled "The Layout of Microcircuits, Masking and Etching Techniques." It does discuss very roughly masking and etching techniques for thin-films, but nothing about microcircuits in the sense of integrated circuits. The index at the end of the book is very short and should have been extended because this book is a collection of facts and technological methods that should have been referred to in a well organized index.

Unfortunately the book gives only a rough picture of thin-film electronics—it contains too many research results without providing the strings holding them together. The appearance of a chapter on semiconductor integrated circuits is strange in a book on thin films and it is far too short to be complete (only 30 pages). Thin films made of magnetic materials have not been treated. The book, however,

will certainly be useful for component makers and may also be of some value for circuit engineers engaged in thin-film applications who wish to obtain some knowledge of the capabilities of thin films.

BRIEFLY NOTED

OPTICAL PROPERTIES AND ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE OF METALS AND ALLOYS. Conf. proc. (Paris, Sept. 1965) F. Abeles, ed. 643 pp. Wiley, New York, 1966. \$18.50

The proceedings of the first international meeting devoted to optical properties of metals and alloys describe the kinds of information that can be learned about their electronic structures from their measurement. 54 papers are organized into nine sections on simple, 3-d transition, rare-earth, and liquid metals; on photoemission, optical plasmas, superconductivity, and magneto-optical effects; and on the properties of nonperiodic systems. The papers describe primarily experimental studies although a number of theoretical papers are also included, some of which are fairly general.

Probably one of the most attractive features of this compendium is the inclusion of discussions following the papers and the concluding summary by A. B. Pippard. The importance of the discussions manifests itself most clearly when some of the more controversial papers are examined. Citing just one example, the relationship between the band models of 3-d transition metals, and their optical (including x-ray) properties was the entire or partial subject of about one tenth of the papers presented. In one of these, reporting the results of photoemission measurements, Spicer presented evidence purportedly proving that the rigid-band model does not apply to nickel. Taken by itself, his arguments sound quite convincing, but when viewed in terms of the discussions by P. A. Wolff, J. Friedel, H. Brooks, V. Heine, N. Mott, and later by A. B. Pippard, alternatives to his interpretation of the experimental results begin to emerge. The discussions are as important as the papers themselves in transmitting the import of a confer-

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ence to those who must read about it later. The conference served an important need to focus attention on the kind of results that modern optical techniques can obtain and on the relative paucity of elegantly rigorous theories to explain them. This book documents this fact most successfully.

SPHERELAND. By Dionys Burger. Trans. from Dutch by C. J. Rheinboldt. 208 pp. Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, 1965. \$4.95

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