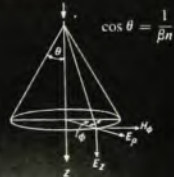


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letters

bridge University Press in 1943. If nothing else, this pushes Born's account twenty years closer to the event.

GEORGE L. MURPHY
Westminster College
New Wilmington, Pa.

THE AUTHOR RESPONDS: I am grateful to George L. Murphy for bringing the account from 1943 to my attention. Eighteen years after the events in 1925, Born concedes therein that he cannot remember in detail how he and Franck connected Davisson's data with de Broglie's theory. This and the sentence "Anyhow, we encouraged Franck's pupil Elsasser to work it out" leave room for the interpretation that the two professors simply lent moral support to the young student in the pursuit of his idea. However, it would be rather difficult to construe from Born's account of 1953 (references 12 and 33 of my article, and hence *not* from the 1960's), which in fact was written in 1952 and thus an additional nine years later, that Elsasser was the first one to recognize matter waves in Davisson's data. In his Nobel prize lecture (reference 33) in 1954 Born goes still further, saying that Franck at once suspected electron waves, and the two professors "made Elsasser to investigate the matter."

Due to a misunderstanding the colors of the de Broglie coat of arms were reproduced incorrectly. There should be a blue cross on a gold background.

HEINRICH A. MEDICUS
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Competition in physics

For some time now, I have been dismayed by the fact that much physics research is duplicated, and in some cases, the true originators do not receive the proper credit they deserve. I believe that the main cause of this is the lack of some centralized communication of physicists. On one occasion, I was presenting a colloquium at Adelphi University and discussed a problem in research with one of the faculty. About six months later, I noticed that he developed the problem and it was published. At the same time I received a preprint from a physicist in Malaysia, solving the same problem in great detail and with a great deal of elegance. Neither one had referenced each other, surely due to lack of communication. Of course, when it hits home, the problem really hurts. I was casually thumbing through the index of *Foundations of Physics* 3, no. 4 (1973) and saw my name appearing in bold letters, the article entitled "Comments

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on a Paper by Gruber," by B. V. Landau.¹ Landau described an error I made concerning a paper published in *Foundations of Physics* in 1971.² He went on to say that the problem I posed was still "an intriguing one" and should be further investigated. I, in fact, had already corrected this error with further discussion in *International Journal of Theoretical Physics* 6, no. 1 (1972),³ and solved what Landau termed was the "intriguing problem."

What is particularly bothersome is that here is another indication of the non-communication of us physicists, perhaps myself included. What, of course, also surprises me is that the author (Landau in this case), who is in the UK, cited an error in an American-based journal (*Found. of Phys.*) and my correction appeared in a British journal (*Intl. J. of Theor. Phys.*). The natural thing to do (as I myself have done on many occasions) is to write directly to the author asking him if he is aware of an error, and thus develop further communication and interest in the problem. In any event, and this I have, in part, mentioned on many television and radio interviews, physicists should try to take a more honest approach toward physics and instead of trying to get one more paper published fast, or trying to achieve more recognition than the next guy, really seek out what they apparently went into physics for—to obtain some insight and enjoyment in the laws of nature and its application to mankind. Maybe if we could all work together, honestly, with less egotistical drive, we might indeed be able to prove that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy!"

References

1. B. V. Landau, *Found. of Phys.* 3, 4, 449 (1973).
2. G. R. Gruber, *Found. of Phys.* 1, 3, 227 (1971).
3. G. R. Gruber, *Intl. J. of Theor. Phys.*, 6, 1, 31 (1972).

GARY R. GRUBER
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More on Michelson

The article by Robert S. Shankland in your April issue (page 37) is one of unusual value. It records many facts not generally known.

A complete account of the Michelson-Morley collaboration is found in the biography by Howard R. Williams, entitled "Edward Williams Morley: His Influence on Science in America" (Chemical Education Publishing Company, Easton, Pa. 1957).

MAYO D. HERSEY
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