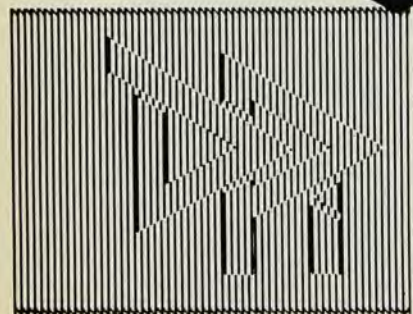


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Most of the experimental data presented in the present volume have been obtained since 1966. In looking for developments on the theoretical side since that time, I took particular interest in the questions related to polarized beams and targets. There is no experimental datum mentioned in the book. Fascinating hints appear; on page 63, one finds a statement that in the sudden approximation or in first-order perturbation theory P_{yz} equals zero, where P_{yz} is a component of the tensor polarization of the excited nucleus. I should think that some experimentalist will want to measure P_{yz} . Appendices G and F tell how to do this, but the authors do not tell what would be learned about nuclei if the departure from zero were measured. Presumably the same sort of thing would be learned as is learned from the experiments discussed in the chapter on higher-order perturbation theory, but perhaps one could achieve more accuracy.

Chapter 10 takes up applications to experiments; this chapter should prove useful to experimentalists and theorists. TORBEN units come in for discussion in the second paragraph. The appendices are gems.

JOHN L. GAMMEL
Saint Louis University
Missouri

Deformation Kinetics

A. S. Krausz, H. Eyring
398 pp. Wiley, New York, 1975. \$24.95

After examining the book *Deformation Kinetics*, one takes away the impression that all deformation processes can be interpreted by the use of the Eyring theory and absolute reaction rates. While this may indeed be the case, the authors would have presented a far more valuable discussion had they contrasted this viewpoint with the conventional and more widely accepted theories.

The authors have divided the book into two parts. The first portion deals with the development of the molecular theory of deformation kinetics, the second with the analysis of deformation processes and applications both to polymers and to crystalline solids. Examples pertaining to such topics as fracture, hysteresis, stress relaxation of fibers in various environments and superplasticity appear; while this section may seem impressive, the authors could have found material of greater appeal. The examples permit of only minimal application to polymers, and even those that do so lack currency.

The authors either totally overlooked or deliberately ignored several good applications of kinetic theory to polymer systems, though they appear in the literature. Omitted topics include thixotropy.

In general, the book's authors have

written clearly. Without a doubt, the volume presents a point of view that differs considerably from conventional viscoelastic theories of deformation. The book documents a vast amount of material that has appeared in the literature in fragmented form, and as such it represents a comprehensive text, useful as a reference source.

EDWARD A. COLLINS
B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co.
Avon Lake, Ohio

book notes

The Compton Effect: Turning Point in Physics. R. H. Stuewer. 367 pp. Science History (Neale Watson), New York, 1975. \$25.00

In late 1922 Arthur Holly Compton "calculated that a quantum of radiation undergoes a discrete change in wavelength when it experiences a billiard-ball collision with an electron at rest in an atom," begins Roger Stuewer, "and his x-ray scattering experiments confirmed this change in wavelength." Now the "long and difficult" route Compton pursued, which culminated in his discovery of the effect that bears his name, has been traced in detail. The essential fabric of Stuewer's book deals with the historical evolution of concepts behind Compton's work, but he also weaves in threads of biography and physical theory. More for physicists than for historians, this volume treats one particular development in the physics of the early twentieth century and examines its impact on subsequent work.

Vistas in Physical Reality: Festschrift for Henry Margenau. E. Laszlo, E. B. Sellon, eds. 228 pp. Plenum, New York, 1976. \$25.00

Festschriften tend to be mixed bags, but this one is different—so say the editors, Ervin Laszlo and Emily B. Sellon. The distinguished contributors range over the scope of interest of Margenau's work: physics, philosophy and education. Eugene P. Wigner considers problems of communication and purpose in science, as well as of cosmology and epistemology. James L. Park draws some conclusions from the Einstein-Bohr controversy on the interpretation of quantum mechanics, and Håken Törnbohm defends special relativity theory from the charge of dealing only with clocks and measuring sticks. The other writers are Adolf Grünbaum, R. Bruce Lindsay, Wolfgang Yourgrau, Laszlo, Peter Caws, Siegfried Müller-Markus, John Bacon, Lee Thayer, Harold G. Cassidy and Sellon.