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(especially in the sections by Rees), properly indexed, and produced as a modern text. I think it would then be a superb reference for students and professionals. Even as it is, though, it is an important addition to my library, and would serve as an excellent basic text for a graduate course in modern cosmology—especially if the instructor is himself current in the field. In short, I highly recommend *Observational Cosmology*.

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Manual for the Organization of Scientific Congresses

H. B. Lemp

82 pp. S. Karger, Basel, Switzerland, 1979.
\$21.50

This book is ample testimony to the successful career of Helena B. Lemp, who was director of the Office of Scientific Meetings for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology for nearly two decades. A substantial body of literature exists, primarily in trade magazines, devoted to the various aspects of the art and practice of meeting planning, but there is no single source as comprehensive as Lemp's book that specifically discusses the scientific meeting, particularly the large international conference.

The manual is divided into 24 chapter headings, which cover distinct areas of the planning process. Typical of the headings are Finances, Announcements and Distribution, Mailing Lists and Procedures, and Final Accounting. The chapters are brief (typically one to two pages) but succinctly written, and most of the details encountered in planning meetings are touched on.

Twenty-five appendices illustrate various forms that have proven useful for other conference organizers, such as instructions for authors of poster presentations, abstract forms, registration procedures and instructions to session chairmen.

Both amateur and professional meeting planners will find the book of value: the former as a basic text, the latter as a ready reference for alternative approaches to common problems. Moreover, an equally important class of user of the text should be the chairmen of scientific meetings. An appreciation on their part of planning details will make for a more fruitful relationship with the meeting manager.

The value of such a book is proportional to the number of bits of new information that can be extracted. I found many. Two chapters that were exceptionally complete were those on a feasibility study for a congress and on the social program.



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I could find nothing to add to the list of general considerations for site selection. The material on social program provides guidelines on wine consumption, banquet attendance as a function of timing and as a function of price, as well as programs for children.

I have a few criticisms. I found the absence of a bibliography and references particularly annoying in the case of subjects with which I had only slight acquaintance. Furthermore, two relatively new technologies appear to be overlooked: the use of photocopying machines to make pressure-sensitive labels for mailings, processing of registration, and manipulation of information on contributed papers; and the use of microcomputers and data-base-management software to handle similar tasks. The availability of affordable computer hardware is relatively recent and may prove to be a valuable adjunct to the meeting planner's bag of tricks. It may also prove to be a technological morass from which Lemp's carefully outlined procedures are the only means of extrication.

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book notes

What is a Star? D. Goldsmith. 32 pp. Interstellar, Berkeley, Cal., 1979. \$2.95

This thin paperback is a concise primer on astronomy for the adult layman. Writing in elementary terms, the author tries not to short-change accuracy or completeness in favor of brevity of simplicity. The text is structured around chapter headings that range from "How Far Away Are the Stars and Planets?" and "Why Do We Always See the Same Side of the Moon?" to "What is a Quasar?"

Copies are available for \$3.25 (which includes postage and handling) from: Catalog Department, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 1290 24th Avenue, San Francisco, Cal. 94122

Crystal Structure Data of Inorganic Compounds, Volume 7, Part 2C (Landolt-Börnstein). W. Pies, A. Weiss. 479 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$302.50.

Part of the crystal and solid-state-physics group of the Landolt-Börnstein series, this volume focuses in particular on inorganic crystalline compounds that contain the "key elements" P, As, Sb, Bi combined with at least one of the elements F, Cl, Br, I, O or N. The order of the topics is arranged according to the "key elements" in the anion portions of the molecules—an arrangement that al-

lows the chemical and crystallographic relationships between the compounds to be considered. Tables list the following characteristics of each compound: the chemical formula, space group, lattice constants, the number of formula units in the unit cell, the density, the structure type and an indication of the scope of the structural information. Additional data are also supplied—optical properties, electron density distribution, Debye-Waller factors, magnetic properties and epitaxy. The methods used to examine the crystals include x-ray, neutron and electron diffraction, single crystal and powder techniques and various types of spectroscopic analyses. Where possible, the authors critically evaluated the experimental results.

—SCA

new books

Atomic, Molecular and Chemical Physics

The Structure of Matter: An Introduction to Atomic, Nuclear and Particle Physics. R. M. Turnbull. 227 pp. Blackie, Glasgow, UK, 1979. \$17.95

Non-Radiative Decay of Ions and Molecules In Solids. R. Englman. 342 pp. North-Holland, New York, 1979. \$58.50

Structure and Bonding in Solid State Chemistry. M. F. C. Ladd. 326 pp. Ellis Horwood, Chichester, UK (dist.: Wiley), 1979. \$47.50

Electricity, Magnetism and Fields

Experimental Magnetism, Vol. 1. G. M. Kalvius, R. S. Tebble, eds. 361 pp. Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1979. \$40.00

Magnetic Properties of Coordination and Organometallic Transition Metal Compounds Supplement 2 (Landolt-Börnstein). E. König, G. König. 982 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$539.00

Electromagnetic Field Theory: A Problem Solving Approach. M. Zahn. 752 pp. Wiley, New York, 1979. \$25.95

Fluids and Plasmas

Nonlinear Plasma Dynamics at Laser Irradiation. H. Hora. 250 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$12.50

Dynamics and Instability of Fluid Interfaces (Proc. of a meeting, Lyngby, Denmark, May 1978). T. S. Sørensen, ed. 315 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979.

Crystallography, Low-Temperature and Solid-State Physics

Crystal Structure Data of Inorganic Compounds, Part C (Landolt-Börnstein). W. Pies, A. Weiss. 479 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$302.50

Theory and Mathematical Physics

Advanced Quantum Theory and Its Application Through Feynman Diagrams. M. D. Scadron. 401 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$39.80

Group Theoretical Methods in Physics (Proc. of an int. conf., Austin, Texas, September 1978). W. Beiglböck, A. Böhm, E. Takasugi, eds. 553 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$23.00

Stochastic Behavior in Classical and Quantum Hamiltonian Systems (Proc. of a conf., Como, Italy, Summer 1977). G. Casati, J. Ford, eds. 375 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$17.80

Optimization and Approximation. W. Krabs. 232 pp. Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1979. \$28.95

Instrumentation and Techniques

Uranium Enrichment. S. Villani, ed. 332 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$49.00

Infrared and Millimeter Waves, Vol. 1: Sources of Radiation. K. J. Button, ed. 347 pp. Academic, New York, 1979. \$37.50

Heat, Thermodynamics and Statistical Physics

Nitrogen: International Thermodynamic Tables, Vol. 6. S. Angus, K. M. deReuck, B. Armstrong, eds. 268 pp. Pergamon, Elmsford, N.Y., 1979. \$60.00

Statistical Mechanics and the Foundations of Thermodynamics. A. Martin-Löf. 120 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$9.00

Dynamical Critical Phenomena and Related Topics (Proc. of an int. conf., Geneva, Switzerland, April 1979). C. P. Enz, ed. 402 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1979. \$19.50

History, Philosophy, Society and Government

Limits of Scientific Inquiry. G. Holton, R. S. Morison, eds. 254 pp. Norton, New York, 1979. \$15.00

Knowledge and Cosmos: Development and Decline of the Medieval Perspective. R. K. DeKosky. 332 pp. University Press of America, Washington, D.C., 1979. \$16.50 hardbound, \$11.50 paperbound.

The Thermal Theory of Cyclones: A History of Meteorological Thought in the Nineteenth Century. G. Kutzbach. 268 pp. Amer. Meteorological Soc., Boston, Mass., 1979. \$30.00

The Uranium People. L. M. Libby. 351 pp. Crane, Russak; Scribner's, New York, 1979. \$15.95

Student Texts and Popularizations

Physics Without Math: A Descriptive Introduction. G. Shapiro. 365 pp. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1979. \$14.95

The Physical Environment. B. K. Ridley. 236 pp. Ellis Horwood, Chichester, UK (dist.: Wiley), 1979. \$24.95 □