

be tempted to cite him for having demonstrated the effect. Unfortunately, neither the accuracy of the calculated amplitudes nor the experimental precision at that time permitted an analysis of the data that established it unambiguously. Only in recent years have the experiments become sufficiently precise and the calculations sufficiently accurate to make the scientific claim that Delbrück scattering has indeed been observed.²

References

1. R. R. Wilson, Phys. Rev. 82, 295 (1951); Phys. Rev. 90, 720 (1953).
2. See for example: H. E. Jackson, G. E. Thomas, and K. J. Wetzel, Phys. Rev. C 9, 1153 (1974), and W. Mückenheim and M. Schumacher, J. Phys. G 6, 1237 (1980).

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Effects of nuclear war

I realize that Figure 5 "Fallout Patterns..." was included in Frank von Hippel's article on "The Emperor's New Clothes 1981" (July, page 34) to demonstrate the levels of inaccuracy possible in determining public policy. Even taking this into account, I feel embarrassed to admit to my friends that I am part of the science community that dares to place such data in print again without mentioning the fact that it is a first-order effect. In a nuclear war, most second-order effects would be bigger than the first-order effects. A diverging series does not tend to a limit and so higher-order effects cannot be left out. The phrase "half the population to be hospitalized" is meaningless and misleading. These people would be lying rotting in our homes and streets. The people left wouldn't have the energy to throw the bodies out. Most of them would die soon after from lack of essential services.

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Correction

Acknowledgment for the digital radiography images appearing in the article "Medical Imaging Systems" (August, page 36; figure 2) should be given to William R. Brody and his colleagues at Stanford University, who used a scanned projection system to produce these photographs. (See W. R. Brody, D. M. Cassel, F. G. Sommer, L. A. Lehmann, A. Macouski, R. E. Alvarez, N. J. Pelc, S. J. Riederer, A. L. Hall, Am. Jour. Radiol. 137, 201 (1981); and W. R. Brody, G. Butt, A. Hall, A. Macouski, Med. Phys. 8 (3) 353 (1981).) The authors regret this omission. □

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