

Ab Initio Calculation of Phonon Spectra. CECAM Workshop, June 1981, Antwerp. J. T. Devreese, V. E. Van Doren, P. E. Van Camp, eds. 303 pp. Plenum, New York, 1983. \$42.50

Astronomy, Cosmology and Space Physics

Daytime Star: The Story of Our Sun. S. Mitton. 191 pp. Scribner's, New York, 1983. \$6.95. *for general readership*

Atoms in Astrophysics. P. G. Burke, W. B. Eissner, D. G. Hummer, I. C. Percival, eds. 356 pp. Plenum, New York, 1983. \$49.50

McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Astronomy. S. P. Parker, ed. 450 pp. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1983. \$44.50

Kinematics, Dynamics and Structure of the Milky Way. Proceedings of a Workshop on "The Milky Way," Vancouver, Canada, May 1982. W. L. H. Shuter, ed. 396 pp. Reidel (US dist. Kluwer, Boston), 1983. \$54.50

The Origin and Evolution of Galaxies. Proceedings of the NATO Advanced Study Institute, Erice, Italy, May 1981. B. J. T. Jones, J. E. Jones, eds. 358 pp. Reidel (US dist. Kluwer, Boston), 1983. \$54.50 cloth, \$24.50 paper

Geophysics and Planetary Science

Advanced Automation for Space Missions. Proceedings of 1980 NASA/ASEE

Summer Study, Santa Clara, Cal. R. A. Freitas Jr., W. P. Gilbreath, eds. 386 pp. NASA, US GPO, Washington, D.C., 1982. *price not stated*

Electrical Processes in Atmospheres. H. Dolesalek, R. Reiter, eds. 865 pp. Steinkopff. (dist. Springer, New York, 1982). *price not stated*

By Jupiter: Odysseys to a Giant. E. Burgess. 155 pp. Columbia U.P., New York, 1982. \$24.95. *for general readership*

The Tides of the Planet Earth. Second Edition. P. Melchior. 641 pp. Pergamon, New York, 1983. \$90.00

Physics of the Jovian Magnetosphere. A. J. Dessler, ed. 544 pp. Cambridge U.P., New York, 1983. \$29.50. *reference*

Land Surface Processes in Atmospheric General Circulation Models. Papers, World Climate Research Programme Study Conference. P. S. Eagleson, ed. 560 pp. Cambridge U.P., New York, 1983. \$59.50

Biological and Medical Physics

Medical Imaging Systems. A. Macovski. 256 pp. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1983. \$29.95. *graduate text*

Nuclear Medicine Science Syllabus. Second Edition. A. R. Benedetto, ed. 267 pp. Society of Nuclear Medicine, New York, 1983. \$30.50. *bibliography*

Cosmochemistry and the Origin of Life. Proceedings of the NATO Advanced Study Institute, Maratea, Italy, June 1981. C. Ponnamperuma, ed. 386 pp. Reidel (US dist. Kluwer, Boston), 1983. \$63.00

Student Texts and Popularizations

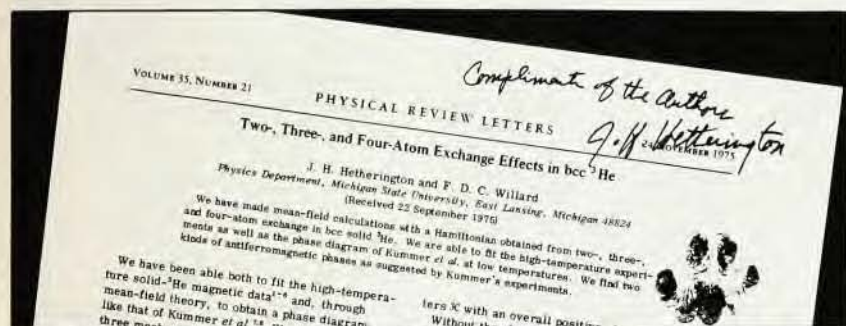
High School Physics: Notes and Examples. J. W. McLaughlin. 377 pp. Vantage, New York, 1983. \$12.95

book notes

More Random Walks in Science

R. L. Weber, 208 pp. Institute of Physics (US dist. Heyden, Philadelphia), 1982. \$19.50 (10% discount for members of AIP societies)

Robert Weber, an associate professor of physics at The Pennsylvania State University until his retirement in 1979, has taken a second "random walk in science." The anecdotes, parodies and cartoons he has gathered together in this anthology make fun of aspects of scientific research, academic life and famous scientists. A few other items are less irreverent but just as much fun. The selections, written by scientists, usually made their first appearances in journals and magazines (including, we are happy to add, this one). The accompanying box contains one of the 200 items. □



Everything about the paper abstracted above is serious except that the second author is a cat (note his signature). Professor Hetherington explains: "I had prepared the paper, now called Hetherington and Willard, and was rather proud of the work, considering it suitable for rapid publication in *Physical Review Letters*. Before I submitted it I asked a colleague to read it over and he said 'It's a fine paper but they will send it right back.' He explained that this is because of the Editor's rule that the word 'we' should not be used in a paper with only a single author. Changing the paper to the impersonal seemed too difficult now that it was all written and typed; therefore, after an evening's thought I simply asked the secretary to change the title page to include the name of the family cat, a Siamese called Chester, sired one summer by Willard (one of the few unfixed male Siamese cats in Aspen, Colorado). I added the initials F. D. in front of the name to stand for *Felis domesticus* and thus created F. D. C. Willard.

"Why was I willing to do such an irreverent thing? Against it was the fact that most of us are paid partly by how many papers we publish, and there is some dilution of the effect of the paper on one's reputation when it is shared by another author. On the other hand, I did not ignore completely the publicity value, either. If it eventually proved to be correct, people would remember the paper more if the anomalous authorship were known. In any case, I went ahead and did it and have generally not been sorry. Most people are amused by the concept; only editors, for some reason, seem to find little humour in the story.

"When reprints arrived, I inked F. D. C. Willard's paw, and he and I signed about

10 reprints which I sent to a few friends. Two of these reprints had some later consequence. One official at NSF keeps one in his office, and when the conversation lulls with one of his visitors he takes it out and tells the story. Since most of his visitors are seeking funds, I presume they all think it very funny if he does.

"I had always secretly hoped that Willard would get some kind of invitation to speak on his work. I later learned that he probably would have received such an invitation had it not been for one of the 'signed' reprints. The reprint was sent to a young French physicist. He was in a meeting choosing invitees for the LT-15 conference, when someone suggested that they 'invite Willard, he never seems to get invited anywhere.' The young physicist said he was not sure, but he thought Willard might be a cat. He brought the reprint to the next meeting and passed round the copy, which said 'Compliments of the authors' followed by our two signatures. It may or may not be significant that I did not receive an invitation to that conference either.

"The paper in *Recherche* [114, September 1980, page 972] signed by F. D. C. Willard occurred after some disagreement among the authors about the details presented in that popularization. Willard, being already published in the field, seemed a reasonable pseudonym for the authorship—no one could blame a cat for getting a few details wrong! We can also note that his time spent learning such excellent French explains his rather sparse publication record.

"The story has now been told many times and my wife can add that she sleeps with both authors!"