

Modern Optics, Lasers and Laser Applications; Laser Spectroscopy

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From the contents:

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- Conducting crystals
- Organic superconductors
- Bronzes, transition metal chalcogenides, and oxides
- Layered transition metal oxides including high-T superconductors
- Applications of synthetic metals
- Conducting polymers
- Nonlinear optical properties
- Pyrolytic and graphitic materials

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The ICSM '88 second announcement will be mailed November 15, 1987, to those who have requested more information.

those laws. Thus creationism and evolution are mutually exclusive hypotheses. (Note that creationism, in this sense, need not be synonymous with the concept of Creation, since a God who created space-time might have created life simply by instating the laws that cause evolution to occur.)

If it can be shown that the origins of life can be adequately explained by the normal functioning of space-time, then creationism will have been falsified. Of course, creationists might propose that God interfered with the laws of space-time in such a way as to cover His tracks and make it appear as though life arose by evolution, but I have yet to encounter any creationists who actually claim this, and I doubt that most evolutionists would object seriously if they did.

ROBERT W. MCADAMS

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MORE ON REFEREEING

I would like to express my strong support of the letter by Alwyn Eades (October 1986, page 156) concerning the refereeing process. I have seen it happen more than once that I or friends pointed out a basic flaw in a paper and suggested how to treat the problem, only to see the paper published with the referee's ideas forming the substance of the work.

Another problem concerns the scope of *Physical Review Letters*. I would expect that the editors of a journal aimed at publishing letters of "general interest" should take that aim into account by also employing referees outside the immediate field of a letter. However, my impression is that US editors are significantly more reluctant than European editors to assume an active role in shaping the scope or publishing policy of a journal. For example, I know of a couple of papers that were judged good by referees, with only minor suggestions made, but which have never been resubmitted by the authors (for whatever reasons). I would expect that an editor would be interested in publishing good papers and therefore would contact these authors again after a while. Again, this would be fair to the referees, taking their work into account.

ANTON ZEILINGER

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11/86

MARTIAN MISTAKE

We are writing to call attention to an error in our book *On Mars*. On pages

235 and 236, we state incorrectly that Norman Horowitz, Roy E. Cameron and Jerry S. Hubbard (*Science*, 21 April 1972, page 242) failed to detect microorganisms in the soil of the dry valleys of Antarctica, despite five years of effort. Actually, they detected bacteria in 86% of the soil samples tested; just 14% were found to be sterile. No one, to our knowledge, ever claimed that the dry valleys were sterile, contrary to what our book says. We apologize to Horowitz, Cameron and Hubbard for misstating their findings.

EDWARD C. EZELL

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Woodbridge, Virginia ■

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

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