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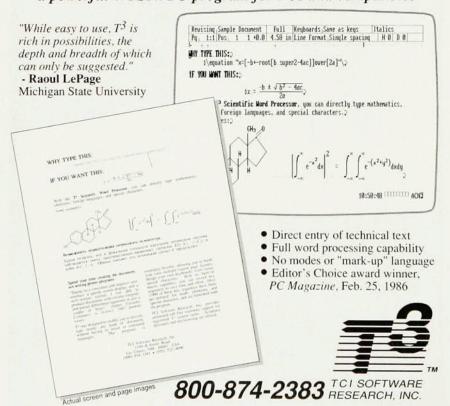
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Linus Pauling in 1954, therefore, there was no award to a crystallographer between that to the Braggs in 1915 (physics) and those to Max Perutz and John Kendrew (chemistry) and Francis Crick, James Watson and Maurice Wilkins (physiology or medicine) in 1962. There have been a number of recipients in chemistry since then.

The interdisciplinary nature of crystallography is notable, and the concluding remarks of the author on this subject are most pertinent. What is missing, however, is an understanding of the handicap that the interdisciplinary nature of the subject posed to its recognition, and of the struggle that was needed to overcome this apparent millstone.

The hostile reception that partly accompanied Lawrence Bragg's tenure of the Cavendish chair at Cambridge University was related to the fact that many physicists did not think a crystallographer was a proper person to hold this prestigious position. Bragg took particular pleasure in the 1962 awards, not least because the lifetime struggles that he and his father had fought to gain adequate recognition of the discipline had at last borne fruit. British crystallographers had earlier received scant recognition in the ranks of the Royal Society, I am told, because there was no obvious committee through which their nominations for membership could be channeled.

The field in general, being interdisciplinary, had no "home." This was one of the underlying motives for the formation, in the late 1940s, of the International Union of Crystallography, and is one reason for its continued prosperity.

As the author of the letter suggested, a study of this story raises some most important questions regarding the rigid manner in which we divide science into boxes called physics, chemistry, biology and so on. Like so many historical studies, however, the story is one of struggle, disappointment, fortitude and intermittent success, rather than a smooth and heady progress to the warm sunshine at the top of the mountain.

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Correction

February, page 57—In Alexander Zucker's remarks about the ceramics consortium, the cost was misstated because of a typographical error; it should have been given as \$250 000. ■