

few typographical errors mar the text, but cause no confusion.

Conference on Beta and Gamma Spectroscopy, Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Physical Series. (Translation.) Vol. 18, No. 5, 1954. 212 pp. Columbia Technical Translations, White Plains, N. Y., 1955. Paperbound. Single issue \$20; annual subscription \$110. Reviewed by B. T. Feld, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The five long articles in this conference report are: (1) Isobaric spins and similar states of atomic nuclei, by B. S. Dzhelepov, a detailed, nonmathematical survey for experimentalists of the consequences of "charge independence" on nuclear level structure and reactions. (2) Investigation of the radiation of Zr^{95} and Nb^{95} , by P. P. Zarubin, and (3) Investigation of the radiation of Rb^{86} , by A. G. Dmitrev and P. P. Zarubin, two articles describing classical beta-ray spectroscopy with a high resolution ($\sim 5\%$) spectrograph (the "ketron"). (4) A high-transmission wedge-type spectrometer with improved focusing, by E. E. Berlovich, describing an instrument which obtains $\sim 2\%$ resolution with $\sim 1\%$ transmission by means of shaping the entrance and exit faces of the magnet. (5) The Ritron—a gamma-spectrometer utilizing recoil electrons, by B. S. Dzhelepov, N. N. Zhukovski, and Iu. V. Khol'nov, a complete description of the construction and characteristics of a type of spectrometer, little used in the West, particularly suited to the 0.3–4 Mev photon energy range, with an energy resolution of $\sim 5\%$ above 1 Mev.

Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society. Vol. 1. 263 pp. The Royal Society, London, England, 1955. 30s. Reviewed by R. B. Lindsay, Brown University.

This is the first volume in a new series of biographical sketches of fellows and foreign members of the Royal Society of London in continuation of a previous series entitled *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society* (Volumes 1–9, 1932–1954). It contains brief biographies of fifteen fellows and four foreign members who, with one exception, died in the period 1952–1955. A photograph and bibliography accompany each memoir. The authors are in every case recognized authorities in their respective fields and in general devote most of their attention to the subjects' contributions to scientific knowledge.

The six physicists memorialized in this volume (with the names of the authors of the memoirs placed in parentheses) are Herbert Stanley Allen (William Wilson), Albert Einstein (Sir Edmund Whittaker), Enrico Fermi (E. Bretscher and Sir John Cockcroft), Heinrich Kayser (G. Herzberg), John Edward Lennard-Jones (N. F. Mott), and George Frederick Charles Searle (Sir George Thomson). Of probable interest to physicists are also the memoirs of the mathematicians A. L. Dixon, A. R. Richardson and A. M. Turing, the

chemists W. A. Akers and J. T. Hewitt, and the geologists G. M. Lees and E. M. P. M. J. de Margerie.

The contributions vary in length from a few pages to over 30 pages. The longest and in many respects the most interesting is that of Einstein by Whittaker, whose own death earlier this year has robbed physical science of one of its most penetrating intellects. This is a masterly summary of Einstein's principal contributions to science with relevant analytical details. It presents in much more judicious fashion than is usually the case the important role of Poincaré in setting the stage for the development of the theory of relativity which Einstein carried out in such brilliant fashion. Students of the history of science will find the bibliography particularly helpful. The sketches of Fermi and Lennard-Jones though much briefer than that of Einstein are very well done.

All those interested in the history of science will welcome the appearance of this volume.

Books Received

INTRODUCTION TO ATOMIC PHYSICS (4th Edition). By S. Tolansky. 435 pp. Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., New York, 1956. \$5.00.

INFINITE SEQUENCES AND SERIES. By Konrad Knopp. Translated by Frederick Bagemihl. 186 pp. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1956. Clothbound \$3.50; paperbound \$1.75.

THE INTERFERENCE SYSTEMS OF CROSSED DIFFRACTION GRATINGS: Theory of Moiré Fringes. By J. Guild. 152 pp. Oxford U. Press, New York, 1956. \$4.00.

ATOMS AND ENERGY. By H. S. W. Massey. 174 pp. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York, 1956. \$4.75.

MOLECULAR BEAMS. By Norman F. Ramsey. 466 pp. Oxford U. Press, New York, 1956. \$12.00.

IRRADIATION COLOURS AND LUMINESCENCE: A Contribution to Mineral Physics. By Karl Przibram. Translated by John Espenett Caffyn. 332 pp. Pergamon Press, Inc., New York, 1956. \$10.00.

ELECTRON PHYSICS TABLES. By L. Marton, C. Marton, W. G. Hall. National Bureau of Standards Circular 571. 83 pp. US Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1956. Paperbound \$5.50.

GLASS. By G. O. Jones. 119 pp. (Methuen, England) John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1956. \$2.00.

CALIBRATION OF LINE STANDARDS OF LENGTH AND MEASURING TAPES AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS. By Lewis V. Judson. NBS Circular 572. 11 pp. US Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1956. Paperbound \$1.15.

EARTH SATELLITES AS RESEARCH VEHICLES: Proceedings of Symp. at FI, Apr. 1956. 115 pp. Journal of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., 1956. Paperbound \$2.50.

GMEIENS HANDBUCH DER ANORGANISCHEN CHEMIE. (8th Revised Edition). Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, Germany, 1956. No. 28, *Calcium*; Part B, Section 1; 264 pp.; paperbound DM 147.00. No. 44, *Thorium und Isotope*; 406 pp.; clothbound \$55.68; paperbound \$54.48. No. 60, *Kupfer*; Part A, Section 1; 710 pp.; \$92.88; Part A, Section 2; 755 pp.; \$101.04.