

"Existence viewed as a self-synthesizing system. The universe starts small (thin U at upper right), grows (loop of U), and in time gives rise (upper left) to observer-participancy—which in turn determines all we have the right to say about even the earliest days of the universe." [Adapted from C. M. Patton and J. A. Wheeler, "Is physics legislated by cosmogony?" in *Quantum Gravity*, C. J. Isham et al., Eds. (Clarendon, 1975), for *Between Quantum and Cosmos*]

quality of the papers is uneven, and many are sketchy or of limited interest. However, I suspect that most physicists, as well as philosophers interested in the foundations of quantum mechanics, will find something to enjoy here. I will mention a few papers that I particularly liked. Glimm and Sharp contribute "An S matrix theory for classical nonlinear physics," which is a fascinating glimpse into a developing attempt to systematically classify shocks and their collisions. Dicke contributes a little gem, "On observing the absence of an atom," wherein the apparent paradox that by not observing an atom in a given part of a box (no interaction!) one has performed a measurement, and in particular taken the atom out of its ground state, is convincingly and instructively resolved. "Wedges I" by deWitt-Morette, Low, Schulman, and Shiekh is a beautiful discussion of exactly soluble diffraction problems and their use in deriving asymptotics more generally.

There is a very interesting cluster of contributions by Feynman, Geroch and Hartle, Landauer, and Bennett dealing with issues regarding the physical limits to computation (and vice versa) and the evolution of complexity. Feynman's contribution is a quite substantial discussion of quantum mechanical computers and, as always with Feynman, a delight to read. In their paper, Geroch and Hartle have performed a great service by formulating clear definitions of key concepts such as measurable and computable numbers and supply some instructive examples of their use. In conclusion, let me add that the book is attractively produced (although there are quite a few typos); especially nice touches are the face-to-face photographs of the infant and modern Wheeler, a selection of some of his memorable quotations, and reproductions of some characteristic striking graphics from his works.

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Some Other Books of Interest

Optical Effects Associated with Small Particles. P. W. BARBER and P. K. CHANG, Eds. World Scientific, Teaneck, NJ, 1988. xxii, 336 pp., illus. \$75; paper, \$35. Advanced Series in Applied Physics, vol. 1.

"The combined use of computers for calculation and lasers for experiments has continued to reward investigators with exciting new science and significant applications of optical diagnostic techniques for in-situ and real-time monitoring of aerosols and hydrosols in fields ranging from atmospheric science to combustion engineering and from oceanography to microbiology," write the editors of this volume. In particular, they identify the discovery in optical spectra of resonance peaks that are solely dependent on particle morphology as an important recent finding and note that the relevance of the "quantum size" effects of small particles to their optical properties is another important topic of research. Having observed that many findings in particle optics have been reported only briefly in rapid-communication journals, they have here asked active researchers in the field to provide "comprehensive reviews describing the fundamental approaches as well as the latest developments and discoveries in their respective research areas" in such a way as to be suitable for a wider audience. The opening paper is a review from a mathematical point of view of morphology-dependent resonances, a subject that the editors note figures in all the papers in the book, by S. C. Hill and R. E. Benner. In subsequent papers the use of levitation methods in the spectroscopy of single particles is discussed by S. Arnold, the absorption and fluorescence spectroscopy of aerosols by A. J. Campillo and H.-B. Lin, laser-induced droplet heating by R. L. Armstrong, and the applicability of bulk optical constants to small particles by D. R. Huffman. The papers, apparently printed from camera-ready copy supplied by their authors, are followed by an index. Volume 2 of the series this volume inaugurates (which is edited by S. Ramaseshan) will be devoted to computational light scattering.—K.L.

Chemistry of Nucleosides and Nucleotides. Vol. 1. LEROY B. TOWNSEND, Ed. Plenum, New York, 1988. xii, 394 pp., illus. \$69.50.

This volume is the first to appear of what is to be a four-volume treatise intended for chemists in a variety of subfields and also for those whose interests are in the medical uses of nucleosides and nucleotides. It contains three chapters on subjects that have provided the basis for the development of the areas of research that will be dealt with in the future volumes: "Synthesis and reaction of pyrimidine nucleosides" (112 pages, 806 references) by Tohru Ueda, "Synthesis and properties of purine nucleosides and nucleotides" (169 pages, 672 references) by Prem C. Srivastava, Roland K. Robins, and Rich B. Meyer, Jr., and "Synthesis and properties of oligonucleotides" (84 pages, 490 references) by Morio Ikehara, Eiko Ohtsuka, Seeichi Uesugi, and Toshiki Tanaka. There is also a 25-page subject index.-K.L.

Advances in Lectin Research. Vol. 1. HART-MUT FRANZ, KEN-ICHI KASAI, JAN KOCOUREK, SJUR OLSNES, and LELAND M. SHANNON, Eds. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1988. 187 pp., illus., + plates. \$57.

Both Irwin J. Goldstein and Hartmut Franz in the preface and the foreword to this first volume of a projected annual series note recent progress in research involving lectins, both as research tools and with regard to their biological functions, and predict further progress, particularly in biomedical uses. This series is intended to provide review articles that will reflect such progress. Franz notes that its initiation coincides with the centennial of Stillmark and Kobert's preparation (from the castor-oil plant Ricinus communis L.) of ricin, whose recognition as a hemagglutinin "represented the first step toward the creation of lectinology," and in the opening chapter he recounts and comments on the developments leading up to and following from this work. In chapter 2 Harold Rüdinger describes methods for the extraction, purification, and characterization of plant lectins and gives brief accounts of the isolation of lectins from some 100 plant species. In chapter 3 the structure and function of lectins, particularly concanavalin A, from their main source, the Leguminosae, are discussed, with several tables of comparative data, by Edilbert van Driessche. Chapter 4, prepared by Christa Beurton et al., is an annotated collection of 24 color plates by Renate Israel showing plant species in which lectins have been found.-K.L.

Books Received

Ada for Distributed Systems. Colin Atkinson, Trevor Moreton, and Antonio Natali, Eds. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1988. x, 148 pp., illus. Sandar Market Market Strategy 1988, 19888, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988, 1988

Advances in Cancer Control. Cancer Control Re-search and the Emergence of the Oncology Product Line. Paul F. Engstrom, Paul N. Anderson, and Lee E. Mortenson, Eds. Liss, New York, 1988. xvi, 253 pp. \$50. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, vol. 278. From a meeting, Washington, DC, March 1987. Advances in Immunohistochemistry. Ronald A. DcLellis, Ed. Raven, New York, 1988. xii, 496 pp., illus. 570.

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Advances in Post-Translational Modifications of

Advances in Post-Translational Modifications of Proteins and Aging. Vincenzo Zappia et al., Eds. Plenum, New York, 1988. xvi, 683 pp., illus. \$105. Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, vol. 231. From a symposium, Naples, Italy, May 1987. Aerospace Century XXI. Three volumes. Part 1, Space Missions and Policy. George W. Morgenthaler and Gayle L. May, Eds. xxxii, pp. + pp. 1–605, illus., + appendixes. Part 2, Space Flight Technologies. George W. Morgenthaler and W. Kent Tobiska, Eds. xxxii pp. + pp. 607–1134 pp., illus., + appendixes. Part 3. Space Sciences, Applications, and Commercial Developments. George W. Morgenthaler and Jean N. Koster, Eds. xxxii pp. + pp. 1135–1777, illus., + appendixes. Each vol-ume, \$75; paper, \$60. Published for the American Astronautical Society by Univelt, San Diego, CA, 1987. Advances in the Astronautical Sciences, vol. 64. From a conference, Boulder, CO, Oct. 1986.

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The Anatomy and Biology of the Human Skeleton. D. Gentry Steele and Claud A. Bramblett. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, 1988. x, 291 pp., illus. \$55; paper, \$29.50.

Anatomy of a Scientific Discovery. Jeff Goldberg. Bantam, New York, 1988. xii, 228 pp. \$17.95. The Bile Acids. Vol. 4, Methods and Applications. Kenneth D. R. Setchell, David Kritchevsky, and Pad-manabhan P. Nair, Eds. Plenum, New York, 1988. xxii, 522 pm. Jung Slutz

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Conscious Mind, Sleeping Brain. Perspectives on Lucid Dreaming. Jayne Gackenbach and Stephen La-Berge, Eds. Plenum, New York, 1988. xx, 447 pp., illus. \$49.50.

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