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Early History of the Union

Dr R. C. Evans, the first General Secretary of the Union, is preparing a history covering the first few years of the Union's existence and the events which led up to the establishment of the Union. He would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has recollections or correspondence of this period, prior to 1950, and may be contacted at 55 Boxworth Road, Elsworth, Cambridge CB3 8JQ, England.

Acta Cryst. (1979). A**35**, 1085

Radiation Leakage around X-ray Tube Shields

The Union's Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus recommends that the radiation level around X-ray tube shields should be carefully checked, because considerable leakage has been detected in some laboratories. Particular care should be taken when high-energy tubes are used and when tubes made by one manufacturer are enclosed in shields made by a different manufacturer.

Book Reviews

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

Acta Cryst. (1979). A**35**, 1085–1086

Introduction to the theory of thermal neutron scattering. By G. L. SQUIRES. Pp. VII + 260. Cambridge University Press, 1978. Price £16·00.

The book has its origin in lectures given at a summer school at Cambridge in 1973. This is a theoretical book which consists of nine chapters and nine appendices. Problem examples are given at the end of each chapter (except 1, 2 and 5), and their solutions are given at the end of the book. The titles of the chapters are: *Introduction*, *Nuclear scattering – basic theory*, *Nuclear scattering by crystals*, *Correlation functions in nuclear scattering*, *Scattering by liquids*, *Neutron optics*, *Magnetic scattering – basic theory*, *Scattering from magnetically ordered crystals*, *Polarization analysis*. The appendices contain summaries of results of quantum mechanics and solid-state physics relevant to the subject of thermal neutron scattering.

Most of the chapters have a similar, well planned structure. They start with simple definitions then, using properties of the scattering system and results of quantum mechanics and solid-state physics (from the appendices), the scattering cross section for thermal neutrons is derived. The plan of the book is quite efficient. The basic problem of nuclear scattering is derived first, the extension to crystals, correlation function techniques, liquids and magnetic systems follows very smoothly.

As the author's preface explains, the book is intended for experimenters in the field of thermal neutron scattering who wish to see the theoretical ideas in a not too formal manner. As an experimenter, it seems to me that one can indeed find theoretical ideas and derivations for most of the formulae he has been using in the field of thermal neutron scattering.