

Strukturen der Materie und ihre Symmetrie in Stereobildern. By E. EGERT and H. J. LINDNER. Pp. 58. Nieder-Ramstadt: 3D Bildstudio R. Schmidt, 1976. Price DM 18.20.

This book contains an annotated set of over forty stereoscopic diagrams, dealing with various aspects of molecular and lattice symmetry and crystal structure. They are of unusually high quality; printed in green and magenta on a dark background they show, when viewed through the colour spectacles provided, white diagrams on a black background with excellent clarity and three-dimensional effect. It is even possible, by moving the small ruler provided 'inside' the three-dimensional image, to measure interatomic distances and angles. The use and exploration of the diagrams is a real pleasure.

Certain reservations must be made in recommending the book, especially at this price. It does not, as the title might

suggest, offer a coherent and balanced course in crystal symmetry and structure: that would require a much more substantial and better-organized text. Several of the diagrams are of the basic structure types which are better studied with the solid models which nearly all laboratories possess. The binding – a plastic spiral – is poor and weak: it might have been better to print everything on one side of the page only, to allow the pages to be detached and used separately.

The stereo diagrams, however, are the important feature. They will find frequent use in illustrating the more complex structures; and the book is likely to be especially valuable for individual and informal study and in students' 'self-pacing' or heuristic courses.

P. G. OWSTON

*Department of Chemistry
Polytechnic of North London
London N7 8DB
England*