

Corrections and Additions

Acta Cryst. (1985). **A41**, 304

Anharmonic Temperature Factors: the Limitations of Perturbation-Theory Expressions. Erratum. By J. K. MACKENZIE and S. L. MAIR, *CSIRO Division of Chemical Physics, PO Box 160, Clayton 3168, Victoria, Australia*

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The parts of Fig. 1 in MacKenzie & Mair [*Acta Cryst.* (1985). **A41**, 81–85] have been wrongly labelled, so that (a) to (d) and (e) to (h) run vertically. The correct labelling has parts (a) and (b) on the top line, (c) and (d) on the

second line, (e) and (f) on the third line and (g) and (h) at the bottom.

References to Scheringer (1984*a, b*) should read Scheringer (1985*a, b*).

International Union of Crystallography

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Acta Crystallographica Indexes

The indexes to Volume 39 (1983) of *Acta Crystallographica* have just been distributed to subscribers. The International Union of Crystallography regrets the delay in publishing these indexes, which is due to the introduction of a computerized index-production system. The system will be used

to produce the next five-year index to Volumes 39–43. The indexes to Volume 40 (1984) are expected to be distributed on time.

A ten-year compilation of the indexes for Volumes 29–38 (1973–1982) was distributed to subscribers in mid-1984. Further copies are available at a price of Dkr 150 (Dkr 75 for scientists who give an undertaking that the index is for their own personal use).

Book Review

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. (1985). **A41**, 304

Electro-optical and magneto-optical properties of liquid crystals. By L. M. BLINOV. Pp. xxi+341. Chichester: J. Wiley, 1983. Price £35.95.

In this book the author aims to present 'a complete and readily understood treatment of all the known phenomena occurring in liquid crystals under the influence of electrical and magnetic fields. Major emphasis is given to explaining the qualitative aspects of the phenomena and to portraying their physical basis'. The result of setting out to perform such an ambitious task in under 350 pages is remarkably successful. Inevitably much has been culled directly from the literature, sometimes less critically and with less depth of understanding than one might wish, but the sources of information are well referenced, although it is unfortunate that the bibliography is arranged by chapter and order of citation without any attempt at an alphabetical listing or an author index. Blinov himself has made original contributions in this field and naturally writes with particular authority on areas in which he has worked.

The book is divided into two sections. The first (chs. 1–3)

describes the basic physics of liquid crystals, while the second (chs. 4–8) looks in detail at the orientational and electrohydrodynamic effects in nematic phases and texture changes and instabilities in cholesteric and smectic liquid crystals. The final chapter (ch. 8) attempts to give a perspective of the practical applications of electro-optical effects in liquid crystals; a particularly hazardous task in so fast moving a field, which nevertheless manages to be laudably comprehensive bearing in mind that the book is a translation of a Russian volume, which appears from the references to have been published about 1980. The publishers, incidentally, appear somewhat coy about the pedigree of this book as a translation from the Russian.

In summary, this is a nicely produced and readable book, which will be valuable to anyone interested in thermotropic liquid crystals for its broad overview of the interesting and important physical phenomena that may occur in such phases.

M. G. CLARK

*Royal Signals and Radar Establishment
Malvern
Worcestershire WR14 3PS
England*