

## Notes and News

*Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the General Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (G. Boom, Laboratorium voor Fysische Metaalkunde der Rijksuniversiteit, Universiteitscomplex Paddepoel, Groningen 8002, The Netherlands). Publication of an item in a particular issue cannot be guaranteed unless the draft is received 8 weeks before the date of publication.*

### Denver Conference on Applications of X-ray Analysis Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. 6–8 August 1969

The annual Denver Conference on Applications of X-ray Analysis will be held from 6 to 8 August 1969 at Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. Apart from eight invited lecturers, there will be contributed papers. Although papers relating to long-wavelength X-rays are especially welcome, papers in-

volving any aspect of X-ray analysis will be favourably considered for inclusion in the programme and for later publication.

For further details please write to Professor B.L.Henke, Department of Physics, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, U.S.A. or to Dr J.B.Newkirk, Department of Metallurgy, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado 80210, U.S.A.

## Book Review

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (M.M.Woolfson, Physics Department, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

**The molecular structure of amino acids.** By GALINA V. GURSKAYA. Pp. vi+121. New York, N.Y.: Consultants Bureau, 1968. Price \$12.50.

This book is a translation of the original Russian edition which was published in the Soviet Union in 1966. It is essentially a long and detailed review article. The unit cells and positional parameters are given for 45 different amino acids and various hydrohalides and metal derivatives, and for 19 of these the thermal parameters are also given. Bond distances and bond angles are also presented, either tabularly, or in figures. This material is given a unified treatment in the concluding 18 pages of tables and discussion, in which comparisons of various structural features are made. There is no index, but the data for any particular amino acid or derivative can be easily located by referring to the Table of Contents. A total of 129 references is included.

This is a very useful compendium for those interested in the structural chemistry of the amino acids. It contains more detailed information than did a recent review article on the same subject. However, no data on peptides are included.

I proof read one of the numerical tables (No. 32) against the original literature and found no errors. However, in the course of translation some errors have crept in, *e.g.* in the spellings of the authors' names in references 3, 8, 26, 38 and 127. (*Mirabile dictu*, my own surname is consistently

spelled correctly.) There is also other evidence of sloppy translation: 'differential' for 'difference' on pp. 9, 60, 62, 63, 69 and 70; 'twofold symmetry element' for 'symmetry element of the second kind' on p. 118; 'configuration' for 'conformation' on p. 30 and elsewhere; 'performed' for 'carried out' or 'made' on pp. 8, 10, 15, 66, 69 and 81; 'The trial model was derived by minimizing the three-dimensional sharpened function of the interatomic vectors' on p. 69; 'The molecule consists of two cysteine halves transformed one to the other by a twofold axis ...' on p. 73; 'construction' for 'calculation' on p. 62; 'resonant' for 'resonance' on pp. 101 and 103; 'for' for 'of' on p. 8; and 'refinement was by least squares, with squares, with subsequent [calculation] of [difference] electron-density syntheses' on p. 62.

The book is lavishly illustrated with 86 figures of excellent quality which show molecular dimensions, bond angles, packing, hydrogen bonding, and the like. The editors of *Acta Cryst.*, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, *Nature*, *J. Phys. Chem.*, ... may be surprised to learn that these figures were copied from their journals with little alteration, and without acknowledgement nor (apparently) permission.

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