

Journal Review

Solar Cells, edited by T. Coutts, L. Kazmerski and S. Wagner; published by Elsevier Sequoia, Lausanne; subscription price for Vol. 1 (1979/1980), Sfr. 160.00 (approximately US\$ 97) including postage.

The present plethora of scientific and technical journals forces any new addition to the already overstocked library shelves to justify its appearance to two groups of people: the scientists who attempt to keep up with recent advances in their own and related fields, and the librarians whose task it is to allocate limited funds to various journal subscriptions. Many new journals combine traditional areas of research and justify their existence by the resulting removal of interdisciplinary barriers. However, unless this action helps a scientist to understand more clearly the problems faced by his colleague and to benefit from this, the appearance of the new journal merely serves to complicate further the abstraction of information, by creaming off certain papers from the more established journals.

Nevertheless, in some fields, the end products of research have such far-reaching implications that one may justify any method of removal of barriers to interdisciplinary thinking. An obvious example is the technology associated with solutions to the energy crisis, of which the new journal *Solar Cells* covers a particular aspect. The end product of solar cell research may be easily defined, but the path involves materials science, solid state physics, optics and even economics; the topic may not justify a journal to itself on purely academic grounds, but certainly does when one considers the possible result of any advances in the field. The escalation of funds available to this type of research has led to a large increase in the number of relevant papers published, and thus any journal which collates this information and places it in perspective with the problems and economics involved is to be welcomed.

I. A. MCLAREN