

NEW BOOKS

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHYSICS, by R. M. Besançon (Reinhold Publishing Corporation, p. xii + 832, 1966, \$25).

This book consists of alphabetically arranged articles on various topics in physics. It is one of a series of 14 one-volume encyclopedias offered by the same publisher, with titles ranging from "Biological Sciences" to "X-rays and Gamma Rays." Its one-volume format distinguishes it from other works with similar titles, such as the multilingual "Encyclopedia of Physics" in 54 volumes, or the "Encyclopedic Dictionary of Physics," all in English in 9 volumes.

In comparison with these, the Besançon Encyclopedia can be called "concise," despite its more than 800 pages and the large size (7 by 10 inches) of each of them. This can be a definite advantage for a user who wants a brief introduction to a topic, rather than an exhaustive treatment. Still, the articles are by no means superficial. Their average length is over two pages and they are liberally cross-referenced, so that the first article, "Aberrations," refers the reader to that on "Lens" and other articles on optics; the last article, "Zeeman and Stark Effects" refers to "Atomic Spectra," "Spectroscopy" and others. In consequence of their individual length the entire volume contains just over 300 articles, but an extensive index lists about 4,000 entries, so the scope of the volume can be seen to be very broad.

According to the Editor, the Encyclopedia is intended to be useful to the nonspecialist, either the physicist seeking information outside his own area of special interest, or the non-physicist in need of a brief but authoritative account of some area of physics. It is, of course, impossible to judge how well this goal is reached without extensive use of the volume, but a random sample of articles of various lengths and levels of depth would indicate that within its stated limitations, it should be quite useful.

A prospective user should be aware, however, that there is a limitation common to most books of this sort, which this one has not managed to avoid. Unfortunately, a user must have at least part of the answer to his question or he may not be able to find the right place to look for the rest, even though it may indeed be in the Encyclopedia. For instance, suppose one wishes to read about "quarks." The word is not listed in the index, nor are quarks mentioned in the text by name. However, the article on "Strong Interactions" does speak of a "triplet of particles of nearly equal mass . . . [with] fractional charges." A sophisticated enough reader might be able to deduce that this was what he was after, provided he had located the



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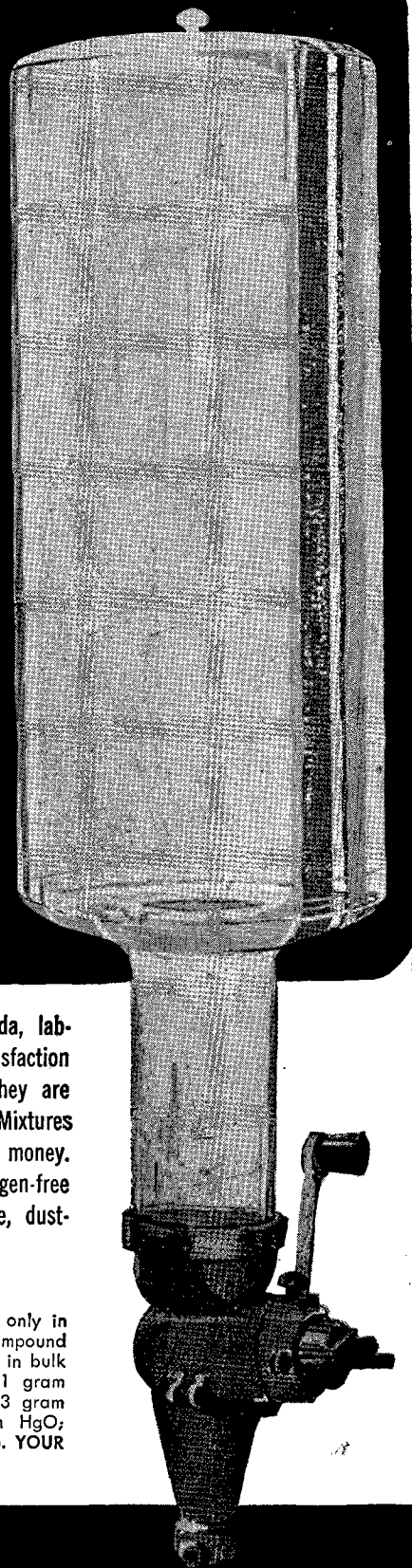
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proper article in the first place. As pointed out above, this difficulty is by no means unique with this Encyclopedia; it simply means that, paradoxically, greater perseverance in looking for the proper article is demanded of less sophisticated readers. Bearing this in mind, it is likely that anyone needing authoritative and concise information about a field of physics in which he is not working directly will find this source with uncommon utility.

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Plan Mid-America Spectroscopy Symposium

During the week of May 15-18, 1967, the Chicago Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy in cooperation with the Chicago Gas Chromatography Discussion Group will be hosts for the 18th Annual Mid-America Symposium on Spectroscopy. The meeting will be conducted at the Chicago-Sheraton Hotel.

The meeting will consist of selected and invited papers from all major areas of theoretical and applied spectroscopy and chromatography. All papers are welcome; abstracts of 125-150 words are required by Feb. 1, 1967. It is anticipated that approximately 150 technical papers will be presented, encompassing the fields of activation analysis, emission, atomic absorption, infrared and UV-visible spectroscopy, mass spectroscopy, NMR, Raman, nuclear particle spectroscopy, X-ray and gas chromatography. Special sessions and panel discussion groups on separation techniques and air and water pollution will be held. Another feature of the Symposium will be a session on structures of ice, water and aqueous solutions; Henry Frank, Mellon Institute, will be the keynote speaker for that session.

Approximately 40 exhibitors will be displaying the latest instrumental developments. There will be one hour instrument seminars describing special applications and techniques.

• Industry Item

The Glidden Company plans to construct a major new research center in Strongsville, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, at an estimated cost of \$4,000,000, W. G. Phillips, president, announced recently.

The new center, in which all research and development activities of the company's Coatings and Resins and Durkee Food Groups will be located, is to be named the Dwight P. Joyce Research Center in honor of the company's former board chairman who served Glidden since 1921.