REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS


This is not a book for the amateur, nor is it a text-book for the professional. It contains some forty papers presented at the symposium on "The Solar Corona" sponsored by the International Astronomical Union and held at Cloudcroft, New Mexico in August 1961. In addition to the presented papers it contains five interesting papers which were received too late to be read at the meeting.

The papers present the recent researches, both observational and theoretical, of many of the most active workers in the field. The symposium was divided somewhat arbitrarily, into three sessions: I, Local Physics of the Corona; II, Coronal Phenomena; III, Larger Aspects of the Corona. Each session opened with one or two introductory papers intended to review the present state of the subject. Unfortunately, as is usually (and perhaps unavoidably) the case, these papers are not sufficiently comprehensive or detailed to provide an adequate introduction for the reader not already acquainted with the field.

The book is exceptionally well bound, a fact which gives it the outward appearance of a monograph, rather than a collection of papers. As a result it seems particularly disappointing to find that four of the papers appear in abstract form only. Spirited discussion must have followed the presentation of many of the papers and it is unfortunate that a defective tape recorder prevented the reproduction of the exchanges. The editor apologizes for the omission of this valuable part of the proceedings.

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