insipid and dreary as the television programme. However, yet again, the old adage of 'Never judge a book...' came true.

It has been a long time since a book on space flight, incorporating decent pictures, correct text, and written by an author who clearly understands space programmes, has been released. Although this is not based, as far as I know, on a TV series, and unlike books that are the programme scripts typed up, Whitby has produced an interesting, detailed, well-balanced résumé of the past and present, with a realistic view of the future. The chapters on Space Telescope, Galileo, Shuttle, and science in orbit are faultless, although, through no fault of the author, all proposed mission dates at the time of writing have been thrown into disarray with the loss of the Challenger. 'War in Space' and 'Russia in Orbit' could have had the same balance of coverage as the scientific chapters: in launch percentage, the two topics are far and away the most active parts of the space scene today. But again, these chapters cannot be criticized, with good coverage of the Salyut missions and future Soviet plans. Independent research has paid off well.

Apart from a single picture error, I cannot praise this book too highly. A joy to read, and with a price caring for the pocket, I hope that all 'space-watchers' will add it to their shelves.—Max White.


This volume reports the proceedings of IAU Colloquium No. 90, which was held at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory in 1985 May. The fourth in the series of international meetings on chemically peculiar stars of types B, A and F (the earlier ones being at Greenbelt (1965), Vienna (1975) and Liège (1981)), the location was particularly appropriate at this mature stage of the study of these remarkable objects. I say this because, in some ways, following the heady '70s when diffusion appeared on the scene as a universal panacea, the subject seems to me to have settled down into a quieter period of consolidation. The present conference has permitted a unique exchange of views between many astronomers from eastern Europe, with their strong theoretical bias, and their 'western' colleagues with access to new and sophisticated space- and ground-based observing facilities. The discussions, and, after all, they are what a conference is really about, are well reported and one hopes that the seeds of many ideas were sown as a result of the interaction.

There were no major breakthroughs announced here but clearly much detailed work is continuing in many areas: old ones like abundance analysis from optical spectra and stellar surface mapping, and newer ones like rapid variability and UV spectroscopy. It may be that diffusion with and without magnetic fields can give rise to most if not all of the anomalies to be seen in the CP stars, modified where necessary by mass loss, rotation, age, and so on. What is certain is that painstaking work of the sort described here is essential if we are ever to be sure.—David Stickland.


In 1967 a new journal Solar Physics was started with Professor de Jager and Dr. Švestka as Editors. In 1985 the journal reached its 100th volume, and this event is celebrated in the form of Progress in Solar Physics, a collection of 30 invited review articles.