BOOK REVIEWS


The volume 292 of Lecture Notes in Physics, *Solar and Stellar Physics*, contains the proceedings of the 5th European Solar Meeting, which was held in Titisee/Schwarzwald, Germany, on April 27–30, 1987. The book contains the review papers given by a number of authors in the four sessions in which the meeting was divided. The first one, atypically, consists of only one paper, a general introductory review, given by Dr N. O. Weiss, aimed at summarizing the magnetic behavior of the Sun and the stars and to point out the mutual benefits that researches in these fields may acquire by cross-fertilization of ideas. The remaining three sessions, each containing 3–4 contributions, focused, respectively, on: Lower Atmospheres, Convection Zones, Outer Atmospheres, Winds, Observations from Space. Authors, trying to comply with the Scientific Organizing Committee recommendation 'to outline problem areas, rather than established results', made an especially stimulating work which gives the reader a precise feeling of today's state-of-art. Unfortunately, and following what is now a widespread tendency, the book doesn't include the discussion which followed each talk, nor the posters given at the meeting. What is lost in vividness, is earned in compactness: the volume avoids fragmentation and comes closer to what is an up-to-date reference book on the interaction between solar and stellar physics. It will be of special interest for young researchers now entering the field. In any case the volume is dedicated to a specialized audience.

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The contents of this publication are based on the proceedings of the 122nd symposium of the IAU held in Heidelberg, F.R.G., June 23 through June 27, 1986. 183 astronomers from 26 countries participated in this meeting, sponsored by IAU Commissions 29 (Stellar Spectra), 34 (Interstellar Matter), and 36 (Theory of Stellar Atmospheres).

The symposium focused on five main topics: circumstellar matter, bipolar flows and jets from young stars and protostars; circumstellar envelopes of evolved stars; stellar coronae; mass loss from hot and cool stars; dust formation and circumstellar chemistry. Symbiotic stars and planetary nebulae were also discussed. A paper concerning the future NASA plans for studies of circumstellar matter was presented as well.