The papers in these Proceedings are well-organised to focus the flow of ideas of the central lecture topics of this rapidly expanding field, at the frontier of current research. They describe both topological textures of physics and various points of view regarding the physical forces inducing topologies. They are sure to stimulate the deep interplay between mathematics and physics.

P. K. Ghosh

X-Ray Spectroscopy, An Introduction

B. K. Agarwal

(Springer Series in Optical Sciences, Vol 15)
Springer-Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg, New York 1979
pp 418 with 188 figures,31 tab. XIII
Cloth DM 74, US $ 40.70.

Springer-Verlag has been doing a great service through the publications of a few specialised series, the series on "Optical Sciences" being one of them. The volume under review is the fifteenth of a series which includes the mdoern front-line topics ranging from lasers, to visual scineces and radiation detectors. This volume presents the background and also the rapidly developing techniques and applications of X-ray spectroscopy.

The author claims that the book may be used as a basic text for one year Post-graduate course but it embodies an account that extends beyond this apparent intention commencing with a discussion on the properties of continuous and characteristic X-rays and the effects of interaction with matter, the text proceeds in a natural way towards the area of spectroscopic principles and techniques. The experimental aspects have been brought out adequately so that any student finding interest in the topic may set up and carry out the experiments with confidence.

The utility of the book has been enhanced through the provision of relevant tables of available wavelengths and their edges, and also a detailed account of the various mathematical formulae that have become essential for a proper interpretation of the data, thus facilitating a proper theoretical understanding of the physics of X-ray spectroscopy and the complementary aspect of experimentation.

M. De

Frontiers in Visual Science

Editors : S. J.Cool and E. L. Smith III

(Springer Series in Optical Sciences, Vol. 8)
Springer-Verlag, New York, Heidelberg,
Berlin, 1978, pp 798 with 533 figures, 28 tab, XIV.
Cloth DM 76, US $ 41.80.

This volume is the proceeding of University of Houston College of Optometry Dedication Symposium, Houston, Texas, USA, held in March 1977 and is dedicated to Dr. Chester H. Pheiffer, Dean of the University of Houston College of Optometry.

The book contains seventy papers including keynote presentation by Nobel Laureate, Ragnar Granit of the Nobel Institute for Neurophysiology, Sweeden and Kerckhoff Institute of the Max-Planck Gesellschaft, W. Germany. These papers cover a broad cross-section of investigations in almost all the areas of visual Science and they are divided into nine sections I. Keynote Presentation, II. Ocular Physiology and Pathology (11 papers), III contact Lenses (3 papers), IV Color Vision (7 papers) V. Spatial Vision and Form Vision (9 papers), Vi. Binocular Vision and Stereopsis (7 papers), VII. Neurophysiology of Visual System Function (14 papers), VIII. Development of Visual System (15 papers), IX Vision Health Care Delivery (3 papers). Approximately 80 per cent of the papers are contributed by American authors and the rest are from United Kindom, France, Sweeden, Australia, Canada and Isreal.

Taken as a whole this volume brings together a large number of interesting papers giving uptodate information in the different frontiers of visual science. Topics cover a broad spectrum ranging from the cornea and contact lenses to crystalline lens functions, ocular pathologies and retinal function. Much of material deals with visual system function. Some of the contributions are very illuminating and can be used to obtain potential future applications inthe different field of vision.

The production of this book is excellent, the diagrams are clear adn the general getup is very nice. Without hesitation it can be said that teachers, researchers and clinicians will get a widened perspective

A. K. Ghosh