

# BOOKS

In his preface, Eibert H. Bunte, the author of **Between stars and atoms** (London : Michael Joseph, 21s.) states that his book 'is written for the baker, the business man, the accountant and the shorthand typist', adding : 'the expert and the already interested layman can leave it unread without any scruples. They, however, form a small minority'. It is thus an introduction to scientific knowledge, neither textbook nor science fiction, but a 'translation' of 'the most important facts and suppositions concerning modern science... into simple words comprehensible to everyone'.

This claim has, of course, been made many times before. One may well ask if this book is better than the others, but the better question is 'does it fulfil its self-appointed task ?' On the whole, one would say it does, the only qualification being that such a book can deal only with some of 'the most important facts' rather than all of them. These facts, as the title implies, come largely from the fields of space research and nuclear physics: the very large and the very small. The author returns many times to the subject of size, with many interesting examples in his attempt to make really comprehensible the vastness of the universe or the minuteness of the atomic nucleus. In fact the whole book is refreshingly straightforward in approach, emphasizing basic ideas or ways of thought rather than the detailed applications of science in technology. In this way too, the essential 'openness' of scientific knowledge, the feeling that it will never be complete, is demonstrated, and even the controversy and disagreement that can exist among scientists concerning a specific theory (three possible answers are given for the 'age' of the high-speed space traveller compared to that of the man who stays at home, each with reasons !).

Among the topics discussed are the earth and moon, gravity, eclipses, the sun's planetary system, meteors, comets, stars and galaxies, are we alone in space ? ; space and time, and relativity, how far can we travel in space ? ; the 'philosopher's stone', atoms and radioactivity, neutrons and nuclear reactors, nuclear fusion and unlimited fuel ; elementary particles, high-energy physics and the apparatus used in its study ; probability ; how the universe began, and how it might end.

There are a few mistakes, some of which cannot be completely explained away by the need for simplicity, but on the whole they are outweighed by the interesting, easily read text, translated from the original Dutch by Ian F. Finlay. In spite of the statement in the preface, even the initiated might find some new ideas ; the typists and business men for whom the book was written will not find out how an atomic bomb works, but they may gain an insight into something that is really more important — how 'science' looks at the universe and how it goes about the problem of discovering its secrets.

A.G.H.

The **Annuaire-guide international de l'énergie atomique et des autres énergies**, 1962 (Paris, Olivier Lesourd is the latest edition of the former 'Guide de l'énergie'.

Primarily a reference book for those interested in the supply of energy in France, its 400 pages are divided into seven thumb-indexed sections : equipment, general information, atomic energy, coal, electricity, liquid fuels, and gas.

The first section is a comprehensive 'buyers guide', with names and addresses of suppliers of material listed under some 200 sub-headings. Further information appears in the form of advertisements and 'notices techniques'. The next twenty pages are devoted to international bodies concerned with energy in general, similar French organizations, and attempts being made throughout the world to harness new sources of energy. In the third section (the longest) articles on 'European industry and the atom' and 'European co-operation in the development of atomic energy' are followed by information on the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Nuclear Energy Agency, Euratom, etc., and by a comprehensive chapter on the governmental and industrial organizations concerned with atomic energy in France. The addresses of the principal authorities in other parts of the world are also given, sometimes with more extended information. The remaining sections are shorter and confined to France, but give essentially the same kind of information for the older forms of energy.

Inevitably a book of this kind is out of date before it is published, and it is necessary to note that much of the information in this one applies to 1960 or earlier. However, as a general reference to the supply of energy in France and Europe this volume contains much valuable information.

A.G.H. ●

## *Last month at CERN* (cont.)



A new appearance was given to the restaurant terrace for the CERN annual party on 8 June.

from Geneva and Lausanne, and a group from the firm of Ansaldo San Giorgio, Genoa. Delegations from the Rotary Clubs of Mannheim, Turin, and Bourg-en-Bresse brought the day to an end.

On Friday 22 June, Mr. **Roger W. Tubby**, United States Ambassador to the European Office of the United Nations, paid a visit to CERN, accompanied by Mr. G. Tesoro and Mr. Love, of the U.S. Mission in Geneva. They were welcomed by the Director-general, Prof. V. F. Weisskopf, and conducted round the site by S. A. ff. Dakin (Directorate Member for Administration) and R. Anthoine (Head of Public Information).

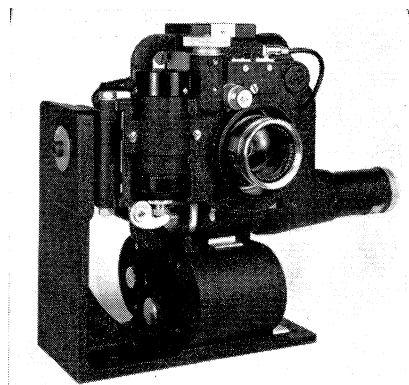
The **CERN Annual Party**, held on Friday 8 June, was attended by more

than 700 people. Well organized by P. Agostineffi and his helpers, the party was most successful, thanks to the two dance bands, 'Merry Makers' and 'Bruno Grasselli', that played in turns for the whole evening. The 'CERN girls' — young firemen of the Security Service — gave a demonstration of their athletic skill characterized by its energy and speed, while at midnight the main auditorium was filled for a performance by A. Roberts, from Argonne, and his wife Janice, who held the audience spell-bound with their songs of high-energy physics and the trials of academic life. The evening drew to a close with an excellent cold meal served by the restaurant, dancing being interrupted once more for a display of burlesque gymnastics by the Lissajoux brothers, both of them CERN firemen ●

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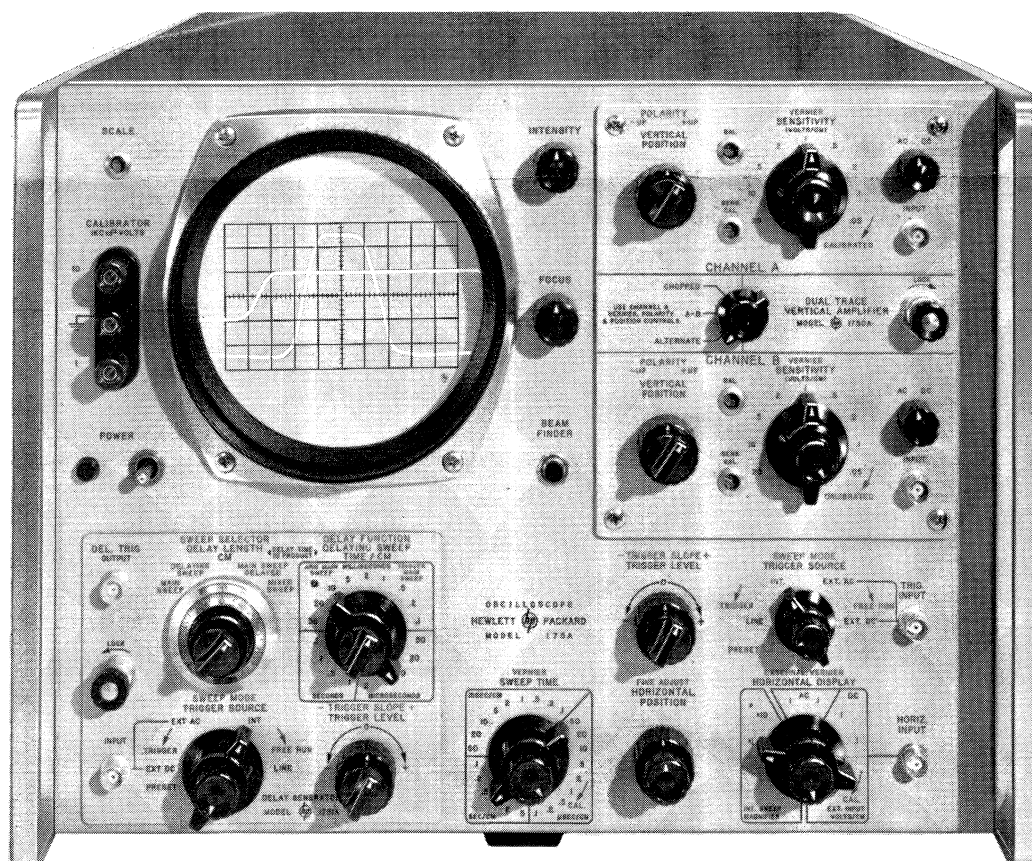
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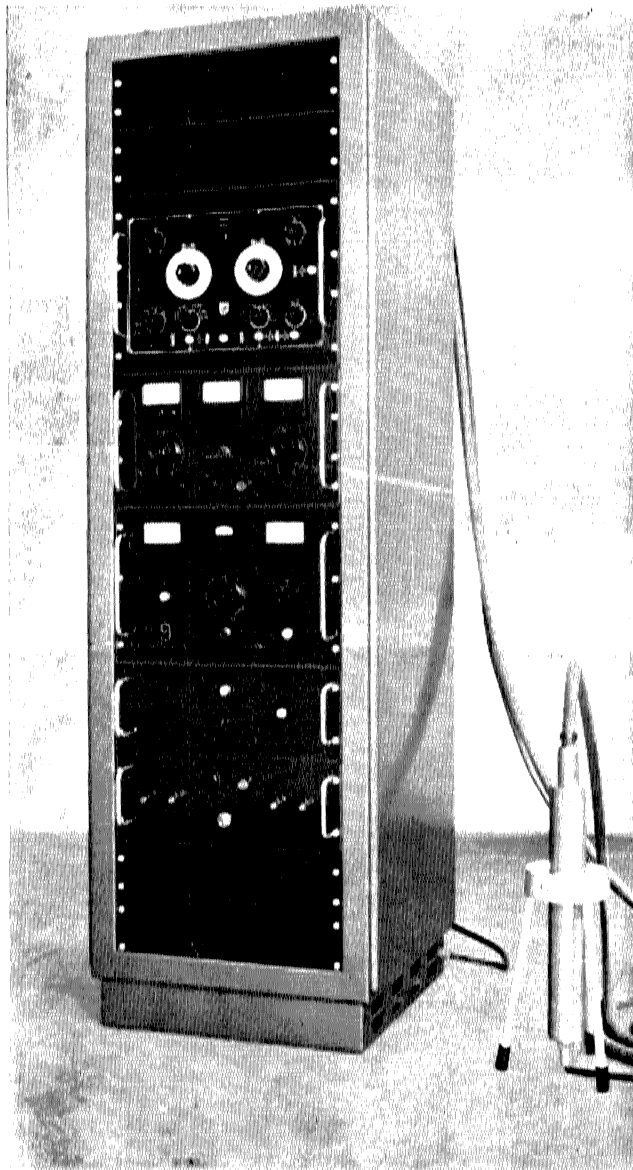
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