



This issue of *Fusion Technology (FT)* contains papers covering a wide variety of topics ranging from various aspects of fusion reactor safety (plasma disruption effects and dose rate reduction) to aspects of inertial confinement fusion. These papers should be of strong interest to *FT* readers.

The book *A Dialogue on Chemically Induced Nuclear Effects: A Guide for the Perplexed About Cold Fusion* by N. Hoffman, published by the American Nuclear Society (ANS) in August 1995, has clearly stirred up considerable interest and controversy. In this issue, the letters to the editor concerning this book were all received spontaneously, prior to receipt of the review by B. Lewenstein, which also appears here. The letters to the editor thus far are all by workers in the field. Perhaps after this review and letters bring more attention to the book, researchers from other areas may wish to comment. In any case, it should be stressed that while *FT* does publish papers on the general topic of nuclear reactions in solids, *FT* had no direct role in the publication of this book. Indeed, that decision was made through the ANS books committee and followed their standard procedures (one procedure involved a review by a variety of individuals, including me, but with my *FT* "hat" off).

One feature of the book that stands out is the identification of a variety of mistakes made by researchers in the field, ranging from radiation detection measurement flawed by artifacts to misidentification of isotopes in secondary ion mass spectrometry analysis due to overlapping lines. From this point of view, the book should provide valuable reading to researchers in a wide range of related areas. The point is that in general, the individuals who were led into these errors had excellent scientific training. Faced with the same tasks, many of us could have fallen into the various "traps" brought out by Hoffman's review. Perhaps this book should be required reading for instructors of student laboratories in the nuclear sciences. Clearly, we all need to stress a deeper understanding of topics ranging from noise sources in ^3He neutron detectors to isotope identification. We must learn from these mistakes so that similar errors/misidentifications are eliminated (perhaps "minimized" is a more realistic view) in future endeavors whether related to anomalous effects in solids or other nuclear research.

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