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## The Search for Charm, Beauty, and Truth at High Energies

Editors G. Bellini and S. C. C. Ting

Publisher Plenum Press (1984)

Pages 585

Price \$85.00

Reviewer Hugh F. Henry

These are the proceedings of a Europhysics Study Conference on High Energy Physics held November 15-22, 1981, in Erice, Sicily, Italy, with the purpose of having both a conference and a workshop for the several groups and individuals searching for "flavored" particles. The 73 individuals attending from 11 nations provided 43 separate presentations in the following general areas:

- 1.  $e^+e^-$ , photo- and hadroproduction
- 2. lifetime measurements, branching ratios, and cross sections
- 3. the use of bubble chambers and visual detectors
- 4. high-resolution vertex detectors
- 5. special triggers.

Included under these various topics are discussions of experimental methods, results, and equipment. In addition, some of the bases for theoretical investigations and predictions thereby made are noted. The papers are rather informally presented, in many cases appearing to be transcripts of a participant's talk; however, others are typical of an author's summary of his discussion, but none has the formality of a paper designed for journal publication. Unfortunately, none of the group discussion that would necessarily have followed each presentation at such a conference is provided.

Although this is most definitely a book for the specialist actively working in the field, someone in related efforts might find the information of interest and possibly of use. However, the novice could even have difficulty with the specialized lingo necessarily used. The tentative nature of much of the data available is clearly indicated in many of the articles; someday, such information may be "nailed down," but that is in the future. Probably the book's greatest weakness is its lack of a state-of-the-art summary for each of the major topics treated; a chairman's introductory statement does provide this type of information in a couple of cases. Although there is no index, and this might not be feasible, each presen-

tation is accompanied by appropriate references. Overall, this appears to be one of those books so important to a field of investigation as it summarizes results and information to a given date, and its editors, along with those arranging the conference, are to be congratulated on a job well done. It should certainly find a place in a university library and in the personal collections of those interested in the developing field of high energy and its associated "particles."

Hugh F. Henry is emeritus professor of physics at DePauw University where he served as chairman of the department from 1961 until his retirement in 1981. From 1949 until 1961, he supervised the health physics and criticality control staff functions along with other safety-type activities for the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant. He has published a large number of articles in these fields and is the author of Fundamentals of Radiation Protection published by John Wiley & Sons in 1969. Most recently, he has been a member of the Public Information Committee of the Health Physics Society and has been active in its Hoosier chapter.

## Before It's Too Late

Author B. L. Cohen

Publisher Plenum Press (1983)

Pages 292

*Price* \$16.95

Reviewer Hugh F. Henry

This is one of three "must read" books for anyone who is interested in accurate information on actual radiation problems and why members of the general public seem unable to understand them. In his concern for the effect of this situation on nuclear plant construction and our overall energy picture, the author's stated purpose is "... for once, to get the viewpoint of the main-line scientific community across to the public" on this topic. Technically, he succeeds admirably, but his overall success will depend on the attention his efforts receive among the nation's opinion molders. His book's special value is in providing specific data of help in refuting the usually undocumented, generally false, and frequently wildly exaggerated "information" emanating from the various antinuke camps. He correctly identifies the strongly biased opinions and consequent activities of members of the news media, especially the "big media" (television networks, leading news magazines, and dominant newspapers of the New York-Washington axis), as being a major factor in this "disinformation" process. As is the case with most of us, he is puzzled by the reason for such media hostility, although he does observe it seems to reflect a politically liberal viewpoint which, as a self-identified liberal, he finds particularly difficult to understand. He does not note, however, that the antinuke position appears to be part of a more general anti-science syndrome, particularly "hard science," and that it frequently seems to manifest a Luddite mentality.

The author treats those specific items about which he has been most often asked in his frequent public appearances.