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Book Reviews

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (M. M. Woolfson, Physics Department, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

Electrical conductivity of vitreous substances. By RUDOLF L. MYULLER. Pp. v + 197. New York: Plenum, 1971. Price \$33.60.

This collection of papers by the late Professor Myuller consists of those of his publications involving the electrical properties of glasses. The material, which was originally published between 1940 and 1964, is divided into three parts dealing respectively with ionic conductivity, semi-conducting glasses and vitreous structure.

The first and longest of these sections consists of eleven early papers in which Myuller's primary interest in the 'electrochemical principles' of physical properties quickly becomes apparent. The electrical properties are treated predominantly as a tool for the investigation of chemical bond formation in the materials. Whilst the papers contain a substantial amount of experimental data, the age of the collection makes it inevitable that the subject has advanced considerably since the time of original publication, so that interest is likely to be mainly historical in nature.

The second section contains five articles on the semi-conducting chalcogenide glasses. Again, Myuller is mainly concerned with chemical bonding behaviour. His 'electrochemical' approach is employed to the almost complete exclusion of the more familiar band-theory formalism. Indeed, Myuller appears to consider the application of

wave-mechanical methods to the problem as 'somewhat arbitrary'. In view of the fact that the properties of semi-conducting glasses are currently discussed predominantly in terms of band concepts, Myuller's approach renders the analysis of his experimental data of less general value than it might otherwise have proved.

The remainder of the collection consists of four papers dealing rather more generally with the nature of chemical bonding in the vitreous state. Once more, the experimental data are considered solely in terms of their value in elucidating structural characteristics.

Taken as a whole, this publication is likely to be of significant value only to a reader specifically interested in the nature of chemical bonding in glasses, or in the historical aspects of the collected works. The book could not be recommended to someone desiring a more general knowledge of the electronic behaviour of vitreous materials.

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