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Electromagnetic Fields and the Life Environment

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Translated from the Czech

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Western microwave experts and bioengineers traveling behind the Iron Curtain have been aware for some time of the important work being done in their field in Czechoslovakia, industrially the most advanced of the Warsaw Pact countries. (The first practical magnetron was constructed by the Czech physicist August Žáček in 1924.) The Czechs were known to have made particularly outstanding contributions to the study of the biological effects of microwaves and nonionizing radiation generally. When Dr. Karel Marha, chief of the famed high-frequency department of the Czechoslovak Institute of Industrial Hygiene and of Occupational Diseases in Prague, visited the U.S. last year to attend the Public Health Service-sponsored Symposium on the Biological Effects and Health Implications of Microwave Radiation, he found himself the center of attention and the presentation of his paper was adjudged the most important single event of the meeting.

The work of Dr. Marha's Institute, which is charged with responsibility not only for research in this important area but also for setting standards and enforcing them in industry, has been summarized in this book, now made available to English-speaking audiences for the first time.

This timely book comes out just when Western engineers and scientists are manifesting a strong interest in the work being done in this field by the Soviet Union and its allies, in part owing to the assertion that radio waves and microwaves can affect man's nervous system in ways so far not observed in Western laboratories. Marha's team discusses these observations in considerable detail, with references to nearly 300 publications from both sides of the Iron Curtain. Also shown, by means of practical examples, are the methods used in making measurements and in establishing standards, the rationale for which is given in an impartial manner that seems to make it possible that the present differences between East and West may be scientifically resolved.

As a special dividend, there is a fairly elaborate discussion of the ways in which short waves and microwaves are used in Czechoslovakia, a section that may well provide new ideas for design and applications engineers in other countries.

This hardcover book is profusely illustrated and reasonably priced at \$6.50 (\$6.83 for Californians). It can be ordered by means of the convenient form printed overleaf.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

1. INTRODUCTION

2. THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD AS A PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR

2. 1. Physical properties of electromagnetic waves
2. 2. Properties of electromagnetic waves from the health viewpoint:
Characteristics of fields and definitions of concepts

3. LIVING TISSUE IN THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD

3. 1. Entry of electromagnetic energy into an organism
3. 2. Effect of thickness and order of layers (constitution)
on absorption

4. BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES AND THEIR MECHANISM

4. 1. Effect on the human organism and on other vertebrates
4. 2. Effect on other organisms
4. 3. Effect on physical and chemical properties of materials
4. 4. Mechanism of effects

5. OCCURRENCE AND USE OF ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY

5. 1. Survey of the most common sources of electromagnetic waves
5. 2. Use of electromagnetic energy in various ranges;

frequencies and powers used

5. 3. Possible sources of harmful irradiation

6. MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE FIELD INTENSITY AND RADIATION AND THEIR DETERMINATION

6. 1. Establishment of maximum permissible irradiation
6. 2. Specificity of determination of field intensity and of power density and irradiation
6. 3. Instrumentation and systems for field indication; analysis of individual components and methods
6. 4. Measuring devices used abroad and the possibilities for an "ideal" measurement method

7. HEALTH AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN WORKING WITH GENERATORS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES: ORGANIZATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS

7. 1. Means of attaining a permissible field intensity
7. 2. Further means of reducing the effects of the electromagnetic field.

APPENDIX: Definitions

Standard method of determining field intensity and electromagnetic-wave irradiation in the rf and uhf ranges for health purposes

REFERENCES

SAN FRANCISCO PRESS has also published two other books on bioengineering recently:

George Bugliarello, ed., *Bioengineering—An Engineering View* (\$16.50), SBN 911302-03-4

E. Salkovitz, L. Gerende, and L. Wingard, eds., *Dimensions of Biomedical Engineering* (\$9.50), SBN 911302-04-2

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