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Electromagnetic Fields and the Life Environment

KAREL MARHA, JAN MUSIL, and HANA TUHA

Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases, Prague

Translated from the Czech

(SBN 911302-13-7)

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 events 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.

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