

ten] showed Prozac to have no positive effect" [when compared to other-drugs]; "In six out of seven studies where it was included, imipramine (Tofranil), a very old drug did better than Prozac." When compared to a placebo, only "three [studies of four] were used by the FDA as evidence of some beneficial effect. One showed none at all." Even the three that evidenced benefit of Prozac come in for skewering when the statistical and medical details are laid out by the Breggins: large number of patient dropouts, breaking of the double-blind code, and, of course, bias on the part of the investigators.

But, the Breggins themselves are not exactly immune from seeing signals, in their case, negative signals, where there are none. Peter Breggin is involved as a medical-expert witness for plaintiffs and has appeared on prime-time TV programs. Naturally, his fame and financial success do not necessarily disqualify him from finding the truth, just as Lilly's vested economic interest in Prozac doesn't absolutely prevent it from serving the consumer.

Fortunately, my personal interest in Prozac's physiological benefits and side effects is strictly theoretical even if I find the medical-statistical procedure for FDA drug testing to be terrifying. Or am I guilty of extracting phantom signal? So to speak, if I'm not part of the signal, am I part of the noise?

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Frontiers of Fundamental Physics edited by Michele Barone & Franco Selleri. New York: Plenum Press 1994. xviii + 601 pp. \$145 (c) (outside North America, \$174 or £116). ISBN 0-3-6-44825-4.

The front matter of this volume identifies it as the proceedings "of an International Conference on Frontiers of Fundamental Physics held September 27-30, 1993, in Olympia, Greece." The conference brought together about 100 people. The proceedings contains nearly 80 articles grouped into five sections: astrophysics: anomalous redshifts; relativity: energy and ether; *geo*-physics: expanding earth; fields, particles: space-time structures; quantum physics: duality and locality.

This promises a real feast of hard-core, mainstream anomalistics. It must surely have been an exciting conference. Most of the listed affiliations of the authors are universities or research institutes, largely relating to physics, with a sprinkling of what appear to be independent scholars; one presumes the level of soundness and competence to have been high.

Unfortunately, most of this book is accessible only to specialists. Readers are required to be comfortable with such opening paragraphs as,

In this paper we study the cosmological quasar redshift and their internal redshifts and blueshifts via a new geometry, called *isominkowskian geometry* [sic], which is con-

structed as a covering of the Minkowskian geometry for the representation of electromagnetic waves and extended particles propagating within inhomogeneous and anisotropic physical media. The complementary isoeuclidean and isoriemannian geometries are also indicated.

Not only is the discussion at this technical level, many of the "articles" read more like abstracts than full expositions, which is exacerbated by a lack of even rudimentary editing. The variety of typefaces is another indication that the contributed pieces were simply bound in book form.

What a shame! One is tantalized by Halton Arp's statement that high-energy X-ray and y-ray observations "require the creation of matter as an ongoing process marked by an initially high intrinsic redshift" (p. 1); and by Napier's that "it is already clear that extragalactic redshifts are indeed strongly quantized along the lines claimed by Tifft and others" (p. 14). One would have liked to read a summary report of the conference, a report accessible to the average serious anomalist, telling of the significance of the issues discussed and the degree to which paradigm shifts are in the offing — as, it seems from the quoted sentences, is genuinely the case in cosmology with respect to the interpretation of red-shifts and all that flows therefrom. Perhaps we can persuade some of the participants to share their insights in some other manner with our society or our journal. In the meantime, we must persuade at least a few libraries to buy this volume so that we can each consult those parts of it that we can understand.

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The Faith of a Physicist — Reflections of a Bottom-Up Thinker (The Gifford Lectures for 1993-4) by John Polkinghorne. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. 211 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0-691-03620-9.

It has been suggested that religious belief is the greatest scientific anomaly, and that is one reason for reviewing this book in this Journal. Another is that in the review of an anti-evolutionary work, (*Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 6, 186 (1992), I longed instead for "a discourse on the wide range of religious belief that remains plausible in the light of what science has learned about the physical mechanisms of life." The first part of Polkinghorne's book makes an excellent non-sectarian stab at that. The second part of the book then goes further to argue specifically for Christian doctrine, but non-Christians can still gain pleasure and profit from the intellectually impeccable mode of the discourse.

Polkinghorne is a physicist who has also devoted considerable thought to Christian theology. The range of issues and viewpoints he has considered is illustrated by the book's bibliography of some 250 works that includes scien-