

THE DEEP SEA BED: ITS PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY

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The deep ocean floor is the largest, most remote and therefore least studied environment on Earth. In addition to its inherent interest, as a sink for global carbon it may have an important role in modifying or responding to the predicted climatic changes of the coming decades. Until recently, the deep sea was thought to be a region of great stability and uniformity, but we now realize that it is the site of dynamic physics, chemistry and biology. The papers in this volume, presented at a Royal Society Discussion Meeting in April 1989, summarize the state-of-the-art in many of these areas and provide a starting point for future studies.

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CONTENTS

MANI, R. The radiation of sound from a propeller at angle of attack	pages 203–218
MORRIS, P. J., GIRIDHARAN, M. G. & LILLEY, G. M. On the turbulent mixing of compressible free shear layers	219–243
HARRIS, K. D. M. & HOLLINGSWORTH, M. D. Structural properties of the guest species in diacyl peroxide/urea inclusion compounds: an X-ray diffraction investigation	245–269
GODDARD, J. D. Consequences of the partial equilibrium approximation for chemical reaction and transport	271–284
ROBERTS, D. E. Clifford algebras and vector-valued rational forms. I	285–300
YAMASHITA, H., KUSHIDA, G. & TAKENO, T. A numerical study on the transition of jet diffusion flames	301–314
BRAY, K. N. C. Studies of the turbulent burning velocity	315–335
KUNDU, P. K. An extension of the Einstein quadrupole formula for gravitational radiation at null infinity	337–344
<i>Rapid communications</i>	
BARLOW, M. T. & BASS, R. F. On the resistance of the Sierpiński carpet	345–360
NIMMO, J. J. C. The Crum transformation for a third-order scattering problem	361–369
RÖSSLER, O. E., STEWART, H. B. & WIESENFELD, K. Unfolding a chaotic bifurcation	371–383