HIGHER SYMMETRIES

Ever since the introduction of the eightfold way into physics, the problem of higher symmetries has occupied the attention of a number of theorists. The situation has intensified during the past year with the introduction, and varying degrees of success, of assorted extensions of SU(3). In the last few months, scarcely an issue of Physical Review Letters has failed to contain at least one paper on the topic.

This has posed a rather considerable problem for the editors. For one thing, there are as yet only a limited number of physicists who are qualified to serve as referees for these papers. We have therefore been forced to overload some of them, and we take this opportunity to apologize. In addition, we theorists are extremely touchy about the significance of our own work, even when we are aware that it is merely working out explicitly an idea that is current and that others are also considering. As a result almost every suggestion that a paper in this field does not warrant Letter speed is greeted by an indignant outburst and a request for reconsideration.

On this issue, we gave up, in an attempt to sweep our desks clear. There are eight such papers, which we have deliberately grouped together for emphasis. We make no claims for soundness, as some of them (we will not state which) have not been reviewed.

                                                          George L. Trigg