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Editorial

J. W. Robinson

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THE SPECIAL CASE OF RELATIVITY

Bertrand Russell called the Special Case of Relativity a mathematical gimmick. Other equally eminent mathematicians consider it to be one of man's greatest concepts. To most people it is an enigma. Although logically and mathematically we can sustain it, 'common sense' tells us that time, a man-made dimension, cannot depend on relative motion.

In several of the recent issues of SPECTROSCOPY LETTERS we have published articles which challenge the validity of the Special Case (we have rejected many others submitted by a virile group of non-believers).

The reaction has been surprising. We have received many personal and even anonymous letters on the subject, some applauded these publications, but the majority were scandalized at the effrontery of challenging this theory. None has submitted an article in rebuttal. The emotional content was high in all cases.

The truth needs no study and fears no questioning or challenges from disbelievers. If they are incorrect, the weakness of their position will be revealed and they too will become believers. If they are correct, then by all means let us hear from them.

Of all man's endeavors, science is the one field where emotion must not be allowed to sway our judgment. It is hoped that the Special Case has not become so holy that all questioning must be silenced.

J. W. Robinson
EDITOR