

Contents

CHAPTER ONE:

Introduction

I

1.1. The role of elementary particles in physics. 1.2. High-energy particles and their interactions. 1.3. Cosmic rays as a source of high-energy particles.

CHAPTER TWO:

Theory of electromagnetic interactions

10

2.1. General remarks. 2.2. Application of the conservation laws to the collision of a particle with a free electron. 2.3. Theoretical expressions for the collision probabilities of charged particles with free electrons (knock-on probabilities). 2.4. Classical derivation of Rutherford's formula. 2.5. Energy loss by collision (ionization loss). 2.6. The density effect. 2.7. Statistical fluctuations in the energy loss by collision. 2.8. The range of heavy particles. 2.9. Numerical values for the collision loss and the range of charged particles. 2.10. The specific ionization. 2.11. Theoretical expressions for the radiation probability and for the average radiation loss of electrons. 2.12. Semiquantitative justification of the theoretical results concerning radiation phenomena. 2.13. Comparison between radiation loss and collision loss. Fluctuations in the radiation loss. 2.14. Theoretical expressions for the differential radiation probability of heavy particles. 2.15. Elastic scattering of charged particles. Expressions for the differential scattering probability. 2.16. The mean-square angle of scattering. 2.17. The distribution function. 2.18. Compton effect. 2.19. Pair production by photons. 2.20. Direct pair production by charged particles.

CHAPTER THREE:

Experimental methods

91

3.1. General remarks. 3.2. The ionization chamber as an integrating instrument. 3.3. The ionization chamber as a pulse instrument. 3.4. Proportional counters. 3.5. Geiger-Mueller tubes. 3.6. Operation characteristics of Geiger-Mueller counters. 3.7. Coincidence

Experimental methods—continued

experiments. 3.8. Efficiency of Geiger-Mueller counters. 3.9. The cloud chamber. 3.10. Design and operation of cloud chambers. 3.11. Post-expansion tracks. Measurement of the primary specific ionization. 3.12. Pre-expansion tracks. Measurement of the probable specific ionization. 3.13. Momentum measurements. 3.14. Detection of ionizing particles by means of photographic emulsions. 3.15. Measurements on tracks in photographic emulsions. 3.16. Identification of tracks in photographic emulsions. 3.17. Scintillation counters.

CHAPTER FOUR:

Elementary particles

146

4.1. Fundamental properties of elementary particles. 4.2. Photons. 4.3. Negative and positive electrons. 4.4. Protons and neutrons. 4.5. The beta decay and the neutrino. 4.6. The discovery of mesons. 4.7. The instability of mesons. Determination of the mean life. 4.8. The π -meson and the μ -meson. 4.9. Nuclear absorption of μ -mesons and π -mesons. 4.10. Experiments on artificially produced mesons. 4.11. The masses of the π -meson and the μ -meson. 4.12. Products of the nuclear absorption of negative π -mesons and μ -mesons. 4.13. Disintegration products of π -mesons and μ -mesons. 4.14. The mean life of π -mesons. 4.15. Neutral π -mesons. 4.16. Capture of negative π -mesons by protons and deuterons. 4.17. New unstable particles. 4.18. Mesons and nuclear forces.

CHAPTER FIVE:

Cascade showers

214

5.1. Formulation of the problem, and definitions. 5.2. Approximations. 5.3. Some qualitative results on showers. 5.4. The method of successive collisions. 5.6. Stationary distributions. 5.7. The diffusion equations and their stationary solutions under Approximation A. 5.8. The Mellin and Laplace integrals of the shower functions under Approximation A. 5.9. The track length, the center of gravity, and the longitudinal spread of a shower under Approximation A. 5.10. Expressions for the differential and integral spectra under Approximation A. 5.11. Simplified expression for the integral electron spectrum under Approximation A. 5.12. The diffusion equations under Approximation B. 5.13. The method of Snyder and Serber. 5.14. The solutions of Bhabha and Chakrabarty and the second Snyder's solution. 5.15. Remarks on the physical significance of shower theory under Approximation B. 5.16. The method of the moments. Integral equations for the track length. 5.17. Mathematical elaboration of the track-length equations. 5.18. Some general conclusions concerning the track lengths. 5.19. Approximate analytical solution of the track-length equation under Approximation B. 5.20. Numerical computation of the electron track length. 5.21. Computation of higher moments. 5.22. Positions and magnitudes of the maxima of the shower functions. 5.23. The fluctuation problem. 5.24. Summary and tables.

CHAPTER SIX:

***Experimental results on the electromagnetic interactions
of high-energy particles in cosmic rays and from arti-
ficial sources***

299

6.1. Introduction. 6.2. Electromagnetic interactions of high-energy photons. 6.3. Photo-disintegrations. 6.4. Momentum loss of charged particles in matter. 6.5. Scattering of cosmic-ray particles in matter. 6.6. The discovery of showers. 6.7. Geiger-Mueller experiments on showers. 6.8. Shower production by photons. Absorption coefficients of cosmic-ray photons. 6.9. Transition effects in the absorption measurements of cosmic rays by means of integrating ionization chambers. 6.10. Shower experiments by means of artificially produced γ -rays. 6.11. Cloud-chamber pictures of cosmic-ray showers. 6.12. Cloud-chamber evidence for electromagnetic interactions of mesons. 6.13. Production of ionization bursts by showers.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

***Nuclear interactions of high-energy particles from
artificial sources***

342

7.1. Production and detection of high-energy nucleons. 7.2. Total nuclear cross-sections for high-energy neutrons. 7.3. Neutron-proton scattering. 7.4. Proton-proton scattering. 7.5. Neutron-neutron scattering. 7.6. A schematic nuclear model. 7.7. Theoretical considerations on the scattering of high-energy neutrons by complex nuclei. 7.8. Discussion of the experimental results on neutron scattering by complex nuclei. 7.9. Nuclear disintegrations induced by high-energy nucleons. 7.10. Meson production in collisions between free nucleons. 7.11. Meson production in the collisions of nucleons with complex nuclei. 7.12. Meson production by γ -rays in hydrogen. 7.13. Meson production by γ -rays in complex nuclei. 7.14. Nuclear interactions of π -mesons from artificial sources.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

Nuclear interactions of cosmic rays

388

8.1. Observations by means of photographic emulsions and cloud chambers. 8.2. Observations by means of Geiger-Mueller counters. Separation of local and extensive penetrating showers. 8.3. Detection of nuclear interactions by means of pulse ionization chambers. 8.4. The rate of occurrence of nuclear interactions at various altitudes above sea level and depths underground. 8.5. The nature of the rays responsible for nuclear interactions. 8.6. General considerations on nuclear interactions of high-energy particles. 8.7. Considerations on the angular distribution of mesons produced in a nucleon-nucleon collision. 8.8. Statistical data on the number and angular distribution of star tracks in photographic emulsions. 8.9. Cloud-chamber data on the rate of

Nuclear interactions of cosmic rays—continued

occurrence of various kinds of nuclear interactions. 8.10. The nature and the energy distribution of the secondary ionizing particles from nuclear interactions. 8.11. The production of photons in nuclear interactions. 8.12. The identification of π -mesons in penetrating showers. 8.13. Production of low-energy neutrons in nuclear interactions. 8.14. The energy spectrum of protons and neutrons in the atmosphere. 8.15. The propagation of N -rays through the atmosphere. 8.16. The absorption of N -rays in condensed matter. 8.17. The collision mean free path of N -rays. 8.18. Experimental data on the relative cross-sections of different elements for nuclear interactions. 8.19. Nuclear interactions of secondary particles arising from nuclear events. 8.20. Detailed analysis of individual nuclear events. 8.21. Nuclear interactions of μ -mesons. 8.22. Nuclear interactions of complex nuclei.

Appendices**527**

- I: Units and Constants
- II: Review of Some Relativistic Equations
- III: The Poisson Formula
- IV: The Laplace and the Mellin Integrals
- V: The Gold Integral
- VI: The Standard Atmosphere

Bibliography**547*****Index*****563**