

On the one-hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Niels Bohr

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In October of this year one hundred years will have elapsed from the day on which the eminent physicist Niels Bohr (1885–1962) was born. In celebrating this date the Board of Editors is publishing a number of articles by Soviet scientists which discuss the contribution of N. Bohr to the development of modern atomic physics—his quantum theory of the atom, the correspondence principle, the complementarity principle and the seminal ideas concerning the physics of the atomic nucleus which has been so greatly developed by the present time.

In this issue we are publishing for the first time in Russian the report given by N. Bohr at the Warsaw congress of physicists in 1938 "The Problem of Causality in Atomic Physics" in which we can trace how Bohr gave thought to and persistently made more precise the formulation of theoretical problems which had arisen in connection with the development of atomic physics.

The Board of Editors has also found it useful in order to characterize N. Bohr's activity in the social sphere to publish, also for the first time in Russian, Bohr's Open Letter to the United Nations dated 1950. In this letter N. Bohr posed the question of the necessity of establishing international control over atomic weapons and expressed tremendous alarm concerning the fate of humanity. By this activity N. Bohr has earned the gratitude of representatives of our generation struggling to establish stable peace on earth.

Some necessary comments on the subject of the idea of an "open world" in the present world with its opposing social systems are expressed in the comments "On the publication of Niels Bohr's Open Letter to the United Nations".

Translated by G. M. Volkoff



Niels Bohr