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1. The fate of famous scientists 2. Degenerate stars, or, who discovered the Chandrasekhar limit?; 3. Chandrasekhar and Eddington; 4. In their own words (and deeds); References; Compact stars and the evolution of binary systems E. P. J. van den Heuvel; 1. Introduction; 2. Type Ia supernova scenarios; 2.1 The Single Degenerate model and its problems; 2.2 The relative importance of the SD and the DD scenarios for the Type Ia SN rate in galaxies
3. Formation processes for neutron stars in binaries: Evidence for two different NS formation mechanisms, yielding different neutron star masses and kick velocities 3.1 Two classes of B-emission X-ray binaries; 3.2 Double neutron stars and their formation history: evidence that low kick velocities are related to low neutron star masses; 3.3 A correlation between a small velocity kick and a low mass of the neutron star in double neutron star systems; 3.4 Formation mechanisms of neutron stars and possible resulting kicks; 3.5 Why are there no low-velocity, young, single radio pulsars?
3.6 Consequences for the occurrence of neutron star formation by Accretion-Induced Collapse (AIC) 3.7 Massive neutron stars in binaries: A third type of neutron star?; 3.8 Discussion; some further consequences of the model; 3.9 Summary; Acknowledgments; References; Stability of relativistic stars John L. Friedman and Nikolaos Stergioulas; 1. Introduction; 2. Action and canonical energy; 3. Local stability; 3.1 Convective instability due to differential rotation: The Solberg criterion; 4. Instability to collapse: Turning point criterion; Turning point instability
5. Nonaxisymmetric instabilities

Sommario/riassunto

This unique book contains a biographical portrait, accounts of Chandrasekhar's role and impact on modern science, historical perspectives and personal reminiscences, several of which appeared in *Physics Today*, and reviews by leading experts in areas which Prof. Chandrasekhar pioneered. The reviews, which appeared in the *Bulletin of the Astronomical Society of India*, are either based on papers presented by scholars in the Chandrasekhar Centennial Symposium at the University of Chicago during 15-17 October 2010, or were additional reviews covering topics not represented at the conference
