However, when purifying solar cells, cleanliness is not the only variable. Doping with phosphorus, as well as sintering aluminum contacts onto the wafers, both help in gettering the silicon. By adjusting time and temperature, these standard processes could be optimized to do a better job. As reported in the October 1997 issue of Applied Physics Letters, McHugo has shown that briefly annealing the finished solar cell at high temperatures is enough to remove copper and nickel precipitates of moderate size, although dissolved copper and nickel or very small precipitates of these metals may remain.

Arden Bement to Receive National Materials Advancement Award

The National Materials Advancement Award will be presented by the Federation of Materials Societies to Arden L. Bement, Jr. of Purdue University at a reception at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on December 9. Bement is being honored "for leadership in fostering cooperation among the industrial, governmental and academic sectors of the materials community, and for effective presentation of the promise of materials to government and the public at large." The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding capabilities in advancing the effective and economic use of materials and the multidisciplinary field of materials science and engineering generally, and who contribute to the application of the materials profession to national problems and policy.

Bement began his career in 1954 with the Hanford Laboratories where he became manager of the Fuels and Materials Department. In 1970 he assumed his first academic post as a full professor of nuclear materials and materials science and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This was followed by government service as director of the Materials Science Office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) (1976–1979) and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (1979–1980). In 1980, Bement began his second career in industry as vice president of TRW, and in 1993 joined the faculty at Purdue as the Basil F. Turner Distingished Professor.

In the mid-1980s, Bement chaired the National Materials Advisory Board, overseeing the study "Materials Science and Engineering for the 1990s," which has had broad impacts on the interactions of all sectors of the field. Bement is a former chair of the Statutory Visiting Committee of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, a former member of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award of the Department of Commerce, a former chair of the National Materials Advisory Board, and a former chair of the Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems of the National Research Council. He received his PhD degree in metallurgical engineering in 1963 from the University of Michigan.

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