



FIG. 57.—Scenario for the formation of a Type Ia supernova from a wide binary consisting of two relatively massive intermediate-mass stars which evolve through two common envelope phases into a close pair of CO white dwarfs whose combined mass exceeds the Chandrasekhar limit. The depiction of the final outcome is due to the draftsman Robert McFarlane, and its aspect has been inspired by the thought that this scenario may account for the formation of Type Ia supernovae in elliptical galaxies. From Iben and Tutukov (1984a).