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applied geometry, but nowhere does he make evident just how his own view in this matter is different. And what is perhaps the most reprehensible feature of the book, Chwistek permits himself to decide on purely philosophical issues in terms of what he assumes to be the social consequences of a technical doctrine—a mode of disputation which is surely the rejection of “sound reason,” even though Chwistek’s own social views were decidedly humane and liberal.

Ernest Nagel
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AN INTRODUCTION TO COLOR. By Ralph M. Evans. 340 pp. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$6.00.

Leonardo da Vinci was one of the last men to study color as a whole. Since his time the study of color has unfortunately undergone progressive dismemberment in the hands of physicists, chemists, biologists, artists, psychologists, geneticists, and a host of other specialists, with the result that the total picture has become almost inaccessible to a worker in any one of the fields. “An Introduction to Color” is a most successful attempt to recombine all of the scientific approaches into one orderly discussion. Not only does it cover the “properties of colored light, the properties of vision, and the action of the mind in interpreting color . . . and the interrelationships among these three aspects of color,” but it does so by precise, simplified, descriptive measures which will be respected by all readers.

While this book is an “introduction,” and the greatest pains have been taken to simplify the principles, no one will find it easy reading. The psychological concepts will be as difficult for most laboratory workers as the elementary mathematical concepts are to laymen. The interrelations of the aspects of color—physical, psychophysical, and psychological—are admittedly difficult and one of the book’s larger virtues is that it is bound to demand some new modes of thinking from any reader. It would have been helpful if the chapter titles had been carried through as page headings to assist in rereading and in keeping clear the excellent organization of topics.

Outside the scope of this text is a view of color which the reader must not expect to find covered—the field of affectivity in the broadest sense. The author has apparently set the limitation that everything discussed in this book must be measurable. Beyond these exacting boundaries lie the intangibles that make all this interest in color so vital. Beyond “color in photography,” “art,” and “design and abstraction” with which he closes the book, begins “color in living” and why we feel about it the way we do.

It is almost unnecessary to say that the work is painstaking, the text accurate, and the illustrations copious and admirable. Three hundred line drawings reinforce every point that can be graphically illustrated, and the fifteen color-process plates are nearly as effective as were the original photographs in demonstrating psychological effects. Would that all textbooks could be made so clear and attractive!

Dean Farnsworth
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UNDERWATER EXPLOSIONS. By Robert H. Cole. 437 pp. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1948. \$7.50.

An excellent treatment of the subject from the physicist’s point of view. Devoted largely to the specialized kind of dynamics associated with the detonation of high explosives under water and with the various forms in which the resulting energy is dissipated. With the possible exception of the discussions of instrumentation, the ordnance engineer and naval architect will find little to aid them in their continual weapon-vessel conflict except a better understanding of the fundamental ideas involved. For the naval physicist, however, it remedies a serious deficiency in the literature.

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Books Received

PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF TELEMETERING. By Perry A. Borden and Gustave M. Thynell. 230 pp. Reinhold Publishing Corporation, New York City, 1948. \$4.50.

LES ACTIONS À DISTANCE. By R. d'Aubry de Puymorin. 78 pp. Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 1948.

PRINCIPLES OF SERVOMECHANISMS. By Gordon S. Brown and Donald P. Campbell. 400 pp. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$5.00.

MOLYBDENUM. By R. S. Archer, J. Z. Briggs, and C. M. Loeb, Jr. 391 pp. Climax Molybdenum Company, New York City, 1948.

COLLEGE PHYSICS. Third edition. By Henry A. Perkins. 786 pp. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$6.65.

DISTILLATION AND RECTIFICATION. By Emil Kirschbaum. 426 pp. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York City, 1948. \$10.00.

ELEMENTS OF PHYSICS. Fifth edition. By Alpheus W. Smith. 745 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$4.50.

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICS. Second edition. By Harley Howe. 599 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$4.50.

ESSENTIALS OF PHYSICS. By Carl F. Eyring. 422 pp. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$5.00.

AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN COLLEGE PHYSICS. Third edition. By Newton Henry Black. 800 pp. The Macmillan Company, New York City, 1948. \$5.00.

THE GENERAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER. Fourth edition. By F. H. Newman and V. H. L. Searle. 431 pp. Longmans, Green & Co., Inc., New York City, 1948. \$5.25.

MIT RADIATION LABORATORY SERIES. Louis Ridenour, Editor-in-Chief. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York City, 1948. Vol. 22, Cathode Ray Tube Displays, edited by Theodore Soller, Merle A. Starr, and George E. Valley, Jr., 746 pp., \$10.00. Vol. 26, Radar Scanners and Radomes, edited by W. M. Cady, M. B. Karelitz, and L. A. Turner, 491 pp., \$7.00.

SCIENTIFIC RUSSIAN READER. Edited by Noah D. Gershevsky. 253 pp. Pitman Publishing Corporation, New York City, 1948. \$3.50.

A TEXTBOOK OF HEAT. By LeRoy D. Weld. 436 pp. The Macmillan Company, New York City, 1948. \$5.00.

TECHNICAL OPTICS, Volume I. By L. C. Martin. 343 pp. Pitman Publishing Corporation, New York City, 1948. \$7.50.

THE KELLEY STATISTICAL TABLES. Revised Edition. By Truman Lee Kelley. 223 pp. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1948. \$5.00.