

success. They write as working scientists armed with firsthand knowledge. Their text is logically arranged, well expressed, accurate, and up to date. It is an excellent example of what can be done in scientific exposition with the simplest mathematical equipment (which is, moreover, summarized in the Appendix).

"Designed," as the jacket informs us, "as a textbook for physical sciences offered to liberal arts students," it is actually a closely packed summary of the current physical picture of the universe. Its thirty chapters would have to be assimilated at the rate of about one a week in a year's course—an extremely concentrated diet. Whether the average liberal arts student, exposed willy-nilly to a course in science, could profitably consume the whole of it seems doubtful. Actually it could provide the bases for several surveys of physical science—perhaps one devoted to physics and chemistry, another to astronomy and geology.

The book has, indeed, another use, to which the reviewer has put it immediately. It will take a place on the teacher's desk as an invaluable work of reference, especially for such "liberal arts" courses as are described on the jacket. The information is well arranged, easy to find, and beautifully illustrated with diagrams. The examples are real and make a demand on the student's intelligence. There is a first-class bibliography and the index is all that an index ought to be—and too often is not. The writing is accurate and terse—a welcome change from the vague popular style affected by many general books on science.

Correction

The February issue of *Physics Today* contained a review of A. Efron's textbook *Basic Physics* (Rider Publisher, Inc., New York, 1957) in which the price was listed as \$8.95. We are informed that although the publishers originally set the price at \$8.95, it was reduced to \$7.60 by the time the book appeared in print.

Books Received

EXPLORING THE ATMOSPHERE'S FIRST MILE: Proceedings of Great Plains Turbulence Field Program (Aug.-Sept. 1953, O'Neill, Nebr.). Vol. 1, Instrumentation & Data Evaluation. Vol. 2, Site Description & Data Tabulation. Edited by Heinz H. Lettau and Ben Davidson. 578 pp. Pergamon Press, London & New York, 1957. \$20.00.

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ELEMENTS OF CLASSICAL THERMODYNAMICS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS OF PHYSICS. By A. B. Pippard. 165 pp. Cambridge U. Press, New York, 1958. Clothbound \$4.75; paperbound \$2.75.

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YEAR BOOK OF THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY, 1957. 132 pp. The Physical Society, London, England, 1957. Paperbound 12s. 6d., postage 7d.

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LES MÉTHODES NOUVELLES DE LA MÉCANIQUE CÉLESTE. By H. Poincaré. Vol. 1, 382 pp.; Vol. 2, 476 pp.; Vol. 3, 414 pp. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1957. Paperbound \$2.75 each.

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