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CORPORATION**

New York and London

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student is brought into contact with the electronic properties of real systems immediately. This pedagogical device should create interest in following up qualitative considerations with involved quantitative calculations. In the usual "logical" ordering of subjects, the student is often disheartened by the complexity of the calculations before any systems of interest are studied.

In my opinion *Quantum Chemistry* will prove to be a very valuable first-year graduate text for physical chemists. It can also be recommended to all those who wish to gain some insight into our current understanding of the electronic properties of complex molecules.

Vistas in Astronomy, Volume 3. Edited by Arthur Beer. 345 pp. Pergamon Press, New York & London, 1960. \$18.00. Reviewed by E. J. Öpik, University of Maryland.

THE first two volumes of the *Vistas* were dedicated to Professor F. J. M. Stratton, to mark his 70th birthday. With the third volume, the publication apparently is becoming a serial, nonperiodic international compendium, the main object of which is to offer an up-to-date cross section of astronomical and astrophysical research. Two more volumes are in preparation.

The current third volume is less voluminous than its predecessors. It is also less international, 15 out of a total of 21 contributions belonging to authors from the British Isles, as compared to 64 out of a total of 194 in the first two volumes.

Two thirds of the contributions can be classified as review articles, and one third as normal research "papers". The contributions cover dynamics, instruments, geophysics, solar system, stellar astronomy, photometry, spectroscopy, stellar evolution, galaxies, and cosmology. J. G. Porter's review of the comets 1956h and 1957d is somewhat brief and incomplete, but generally the reviews can be recommended as up-to-date representations of the respective subjects.

Contents of Volumes 1 and 2, and indexes of the current volume are included. The volume is printed on glossy paper, with numerous excellent illustrations.

Luminescence cristalline. By D. Curie. 209 pp. Dunod, Paris, 1960. 14.50 NF. Reviewed by L. Marton, National Bureau of Standards.

SHORT monographs of any kind were fashionable two or three decades ago. Shortly before the war there appeared to be a decline in their popularity. Like many other phenomena, this popularity is subject to periodic fluctuations; if we look at the number of monographs appearing in different languages, they seem to be riding a crest at present.

If all short monographs were of the quality of the present one, they would do a lot of good. Within its 200-odd pages, it gives a very extended view of its subject covering dipole and quadrupole radiation, emission, and absorption probabilities, the emission and absorption spectra in the configuration coordinate curve