

chapters will come to an appreciation of the nature of living systems as revealed by their response to ionizing radiations.

The format is excellent; the table of contents supplemented by a good index guides the reader. Generous illustrations, data, and graphs make this a highly commendable presentation of an extensive subject.

The Thirteen Steps to the Atom: A Photographic Exploration. By Charles-Noël Martin. Translated from French by B. B. Rafter. 256 pp. Franklin Watts, Inc., New York, 1959. \$4.95. *Reviewed by Cyril Stanley Smith, Institute for the Study of Metals, University of Chicago.*

THIS is a pleasant book, containing 117 excellent photographs showing structural details of organic and inorganic matter at scales from a tenth of a millimeter down to a few angstroms. It is meant for the general public, which will be filled with wonder at the beauty and significance of invisible structure, but many scientists will find it a good antidote to the effects of intensive preoccupation with structure on a single scale. The book has its faults. The author missed a good opportunity to give depth to his treatment by a discussion of ions and crystals; the implication that a NaCl crystal is composed of molecules is old fashioned to say the least. Metallurgists will be surprised to read that metal crystals range in size from 0.7 to 3 microns. There is almost nothing on interatomic forces of any sort and surface energy is barely mentioned. Likewise the rudimentary mathematics of space-filling, which surely is central to a proper treatment of the author's theme, is ignored. It is an enjoyable book nevertheless.

Books Received

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THE TRANSITS OF VENUS: A Study of Eighteenth-Century Science. By Harry Woolf. 258 pp. Princeton U. Press, Princeton, N. J., 1959. \$6.00.

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HANDBOOK OF AUTOMATION, COMPUTATION, AND CONTROL. Vol. 2, Computers and Data Processing. Edited by Eugene M. Grabbe, Simon Ramo, Dean E. Wooldridge. 31 chapters. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1959. \$17.50.

REPORT OF THE FLUID FUEL REACTORS TASK FORCE: to the Div. of Reactor Development, AEC. TID-8507. 188 pp. OTS, Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C. Paperbound \$1.75.

TASK FORCE EVALUATION REPORT—SMALL-SIZED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROGRAM. Atomic Energy Comm. TID-8508. 59 pp. OTS, Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C. Paperbound \$1.75.

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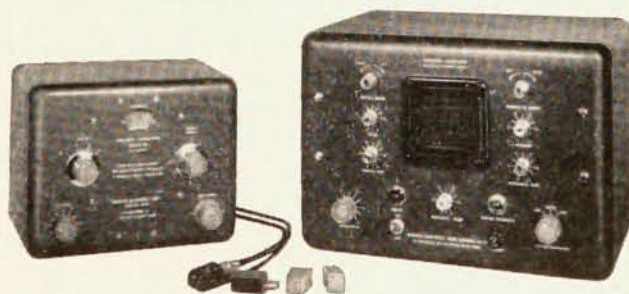
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