

inherent in Boltzmann's presentation. Reading their arguments is a fascinating excursion into the history of physics and ought to be examined with care by all who use modern quantum-statistical distributions so glibly. Though the methodological problems that disturb one generation of scientists are not normally those which excite their successors, still it is imperative for us to study the puzzles and troubles of our predecessors if we are to understand the present state of science.

Though the translation is a good one, the book is still far from easy to read. It contains a 25-page critique of J. W. Gibbs' *Elementary Principles in Statistical Mechanics* which well repays reading, though in some respects it fails to do justice to the magnitude of Gibbs' achievement.

The careful notes and thorough bibliography of the original article help to make this volume of decisive importance to the historian of physics.

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