miscellaneous related topics), together with the theoretical elements necessary for good understanding. The second part deals with theory (analysis of the data and nuclear models). Appendixes containing physical constants (1955 values, with reference to later literature for improvements) are included, as is a table of isotopes (abridged from the 1958 table in *Reviews of Modern Physics*). There are many sketches, graphs, and tables, and each section has an abundant and up-to-date listing of references.

The Physical Universe. By Konrad Krauskopf and Arthur Beiser. 536 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, 1960. $8.95. *Reviewed by J. Gillis, The Weizmann Institute of Science.*

POPULAR science writing is by now a well-established occupation, and it might be an interesting and rewarding study to investigate the development of the art over the ages. Starting with the author of the first chapter of Genesis one would follow how, at different times and in different civilizations, popular science writers have varied their subject matter and the manner of its presentation.

The reviewer cannot resist the temptation to compare new productions with some of the good old standards, e.g., those of R. S. Ball and his generation. Those writers tended to take some well-defined branch of science and describe it from all points of view. The result was something like a liberal education since there is probably no better way of teaching than to teach some subject, however specialized it may seem, fundamentally, broadly, and well.

The current approach is very different, viz., to present a slight glimpse of as much as possible. The book under review presents the whole range of the physical world from absolute temperature to Zeeman effect. The inevitable result is that not a single topic can receive anything like adequate treatment. Almost everything is mentioned and, in nearly every case, the account breaks off just where the intelligent reader should be beginning to ask "how?" or "why?".

One can only hope that the elegant printing and beautiful illustrations will so charm the reader that he will be impelled to seek elsewhere the answers to these questions. Apart from that he can get from this book a vague idea of the majestic complexity of the physical universe and of the fantastic uniformity of natural laws.

Cryophysics. By K. Mendelssohn. Vol. 7 of Interscience Tracts on Physics and Astronomy, edited by R. E. Marshak. 183 pp. Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1960. Clothbound $4.50; paperbound $2.50. *Reviewed by H. Forstat, Michigan State University.*

PROFESSOR Mendelssohn has written an excellent short survey of the present state of low-temperature research (up to 1959) which will be extremely useful as an introductory monograph in the field. This book is aimed at students who wish to familiarize them-