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At present, when many private organizations produce translations for profit, it would seem that the discipline of good taste can only be imposed by economic failure. I believe it is pertinent to re-examine the current translation program and at every point to discourage useless publications. In my opinion this book should never have been translated and its appearance reveals some very interesting facets of the publishers' policies.

Mechanical Behavior of Materials at Elevated Temperatures. John E. Dorn, ed. 529 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, 1961. \$14.50. *Reviewed by E. H. Dill, University of Washington.*

A SERIES of lectures given at the University of California on the nature of dislocations and their behavior under stress is the basis for the fifteen chapters of this book. Each chapter is written by a recognized authority. The stated purpose of this lecture series was to point out to scientists and engineers the physical basis of the behavior of materials, with emphasis on applications of the theory of dislocations.

The first few chapters explain the principles of dislocation theory. Several chapters are then devoted to the theory of metals and their sources of strength at normal and slightly elevated temperatures. Some important areas of application, including thermal shock, creep, and fatigue, are discussed in the final chapters.

This is not a suitable textbook, but it is a valuable source of information for anyone interested in understanding the physical origins of the mechanical properties of metals.

Forces and Fields. The Concept of Action at a Distance in the History of Physics. By Mary B. Hesse. 318 pp. Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, Edinburgh, 1961. 35s. *Reviewed by R. B. Lindsay, Brown University.*

MUCH of the historical development of physics may be looked upon as an intellectual struggle between the contrasting views that physical phenomena are best described and interpreted by the motion and interaction of particles on the one hand or by the behavior of continuous media on the other. Numerous books have been written to interpret the views of the founders of physical theories along these two main lines, including such popular works in English as E. T. Whittaker's *History of the Theories of Aether and Electricity* (1951, 1953) and E. A. Burt's *The Metaphysical Foundations of Modern Physical Science* (1932). The volume under review, by a well-known British woman philosopher of physical science, provides a continuation of this tradition in terms of a historical and philosophical examination of the concept of action at a distance. This notion gave great trouble to our predecessors in the construction of physical theories. Even Newton, whose principle of universal gravitation in the form usually employed necessarily