

It is unfortunate that it was not possible for the author to incorporate the many recent advances in our knowledge of nuclei, ice crystals, cloud properties, and thunderstorm electricity which have appeared in the scientific literature within the past two years. However, with the many research studies now actively under way in cloud physics in the United States, Canada, England, France, Australia, Switzerland, India, and other parts of the world, it is unlikely that anyone could publish a book on this subject without it being superseded by new knowledge and discoveries before leaving the hands of the publisher.

Cloud Physics is recommended for the library of all active meteorologists, reference libraries, and for any others interested in this fascinating aspect of the weather. The book is written in simple language and in a semipopular vein. Its illustrations are good, although, in general, they do not add significantly to the text. Figure 4 seems to be printed upside down. The fact that the illustrations do not bear any particular reference to the text probably explains the reason for locating them in a group.

A useful chart on cloud forms appears at the end of the book. The Glossary and Bibliography are rather incomplete for a book of this nature.

Despite these shortcomings, the book provides interesting reading on a subject of interest to many.

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Briefly Noted

FLUID DYNAMICS

The University of Maryland's Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics has made available at cost an informal publication of lectures by visiting professors, with the following titles and prices: Series No. 1, *Mathematical Methods Used in the Statistical Theory of Turbulence—Harmonic Analysis*, by J. Kampe de Fariet, \$2.20; No. 2, *Linearized Theory of Supersonic Flow*, by Sydney Goldstein, \$0.50; No. 3, *Turbulence*, by F. N. Frenkiel, price undetermined. Requests for the lecture notes, accompanied by remittance, should be addressed to the Office of the Institute at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

CANADIAN NRC REPORT

The National Research Council of Canada has published its *Annual Report* of investigations in progress which furnishes a bird's eye view of the Council's internal organization, the research carried on by its various laboratories and specialists, the work of its committees, and its assistance program to university science workers. Copies of the report, NRC No. 2254 (278 pp., 11 illustrations, 1 chart) may be secured from the National Research Council, Ottawa, Canada, for \$0.75, remitted by money order or check payable to the Receiver General of Canada for the credit of the NRC.

ALASKAN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The National Research Council, in November, 1950, sponsored the first Alaskan Science Conference, a three-day meeting of more than 400 leading United States and Canadian scientists and administrators concerned with problems relating to the Alaskan area. The *Proceedings* of this conference, containing a full report of all general papers as well as abstracts of all technical material presented, are now available at \$2.00 per copy from the National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

INSTRUMENT STANDARDS

In this new edition of the *American Standard for Electrical Indicating Instruments*, definitions and classifications of materials for switchboard and panel instruments have been completely revised, as well as extended to include specifications for portable and laboratory instruments. Covering alternating and direct current instruments, the Standard gives charts describing thirty-three types of equipment. Copies may be secured from the American Standards Association, 70 East 45 Street, New York 17, at \$1.60 per copy.

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Progress in Nuclear Physics, edited by O. R. Frisch, is the first volume of what is planned to be an annual series, much like the same publisher's *Advances in Electronics*. It consists of a number of review articles on various phases of nuclear physics intended primarily for nonspecialists in the particular topics covered. These range from quite comprehensive treatments of nuclear emulsions, electronic circuits having specific application to nuclear instrumentation, the theory of beta-decay, and the scattering of neutrons by crystals to only slightly less extensive discussions of certain accelerators, the Szilard-Chalmers process, and beta- and gamma-ray spectroscopy. The material is very clearly presented in all cases, with a number of exceptionally comprehensive bibliographies included. Judging from this volume, the series should find an excellent reception among workers in the field. (224 pp. Academic Press, Inc., New York, 1950. \$6.80.)

PHOTONS AND ELECTRONS

Photons and Electrons by K. H. Spring, one of the well-known Methuen series, discusses the interactions between electrons and radiation. The photo-electric and Compton effects, bremsstrahlung, Cerenkov radiation, positrons, and pertinent cosmic ray phenomena are given concise, somewhat technical accounts. No attempt is made at an extensive theoretical treatment of the subject, although the results of the theory are frequently quoted. The book is most likely to be useful to those desiring the theoretical and experimental findings in a compact form, and might also be of interest to students seeking an introduction to this material. (108 pp. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1950. \$1.75.)