One of the main reasons why the narrative manages to hold our attention is that it proceeds with many a refreshing change of pace—now an exciting biographical account, now a leisurely philosophic discourse.

In addition to being a connoisseur of the arts (the chapter on Painting and Perspective, which is the only one illustrated by plates, is among the most convincing), Morris Kline is obviously a well-read man. His penchant for eighteenth-century poetry serves him particularly well: the section that discusses the effect of Newton's work on literature and aesthetics is at once witty and erudite.

The material is presented in chronological sequence. As we reach the more recent developments, such as the contributions of Cantor, Lobachevski, Bolyai, Riemann, and Einstein, we find that we are concentrating more and more on the description of the new theories and less on their implications. When he comes to quantum mechanics, the author wisely declines even to explain the subject itself (much less its influence), and regretfully passes on—to a brilliant final chapter in which mathematics is discussed for its own sake, as an important part of our culture.

Mathematics in Western Culture represents an important addition to the book shelf of any scientist who has been touched by the growing awareness of the impact that his work is having on the modern world.

Physics Literature. A Reference Manual. By Robert H. Whitford. 228 pp. The Scarecrow Press, Washington, D. C., 1954. $5.00. *Reviewed by R. A. Beth, Western Reserve University.*

From the preface: "This is a survey of physics literature at the college level. It describes the many types and forms available, selects a representative working collection, and outlines efficient library methods. . . . Background materials have been interspersed for greater interest and information." The arrangement of this guide, by the technology-physics-chemistry librarian of The City College in New York, is novel; it is based on the "approach" (bibliographical, historical, biographical, experimental, mathematical, educational, terminological, or topical) that an information seeker may have in mind. While useful to the research worker, the book should be of particular value to the teacher and student of physics, the graduate student and his advisers, and those who do not have access to expert library guidance.

Climatic Change. Evidence, Causes, and Effects. Edited by Harlow Shapley. 318 pp. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1953. $6.00. *Reviewed by Arthur Beiser, New York University.*

In an effort to elucidate the powerful but unknown forces responsible for the great ice ages, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences held a conference in 1952 at which a number of astronomers, geologists, meteorologists, paleontologists, paleoanthropologists, and