

“Es sind dies eben Dinge, die sich wirklich gegenwärtig nicht, ohne gegen das Postulat der Objektivität zu sündigen, mit wenigen Worten abtun lassen. Ein Blick auf Casparis Literaturverzeichnis, das mehr als ein halbes Tausend Abhandlungen umfasst, wird Ihnen zeigen, dass ich darin recht tue” (pp. 475-476).

In conclusion the reviewer is tempted further to quote the judgment of von Fürth respecting the duty of an investigator to correlate his own experiences so that they afford a logical summary of his undertaking. Thus in referring to the myriad of details published in recent years by London and his pupils on the physiology and chemistry of the digestive functions von Fürth remarks:

“Ich bin ehrlich genug, um offen einzugehen, dass ich mich einer Würdigung dieser ungeheuren Fülle von sicherlich sehr verdienstvollen Einzelbeobachtungen nicht gewachsen fühle. Eine solche wird wohl erst dann möglich sein, wenn London selbst sich einmal der Mühe unterzieht, dieselben im Zusammenhange kritisch zu verarbeiten und seine leitenden Gedanken, die auf so viele Publikationen verteilt sind, dass der Aussenstehende den Zusammenhang verlieren muss, hervorzuheben. Es ist dann zu hoffen, dass sich aus diesen und anderen Arbeiten, welche verwandten Zielen zustreben allmählich ein abgerundetes Bild des Eiweissabbaues im Darne in seinen einzelnen Phasen gestalten wird” (p. 71).

To those who wish to orient themselves in the changing aspects of physiological research, particularly its chemical manifestations, the lectures by von Fürth will surely serve as a stimulating guide. Books of this type are rare.

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Alternating Currents and Alternating Current Machinery. By D. C. and J. P. JACKSON. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1913. Pp. viii + 968, 521 text figures. Price, \$5.50.

This new edition of a well-known work furnishes one of the best general treatments on the subject of alternating currents, as did the first edition in 1896. Rewritten and expanded

to twice its former size, it forms a very complete and, on the whole, well-balanced treatise. The work is attractive, the style easy and the illustrations, many of them diagrammatic, are instructive. Descriptive and mathematical discussions are combined throughout, and examples from practice are used to illustrate theory.

Attempting to cover so much in a single volume assigns a formidable task to both author and reader. Although on the whole satisfactory, the treatment might to advantage have been made more systematic; the book would not have suffered by being more condensed. The chapters on synchronous machines (185 pages) and on transformers (155 pages) approach special treatises on these subjects. The latter would be improved by complete rearrangement, the discussion of mutual induction forming not so suitable an introduction to the transformer, in a book of this kind, as would a discussion of diagrams and equivalent transformer circuits that are discussed later in the chapter. The discussion of power and power factor is particularly satisfactory and complete.

That the authors omitted many historical footnotes seems unfortunate. Such notes not only serve to give credit where it may be due, but they make possible for the reader a more detailed study of special subjects than the limited description of any one text will permit. The footnotes retained (and these are not a few) prove their value. The authors refer in their preface to the intentional omission of many notes on the ground that they are unessential for undergraduates. But the scope of the book justifies no such limitation; its field is much wider than the undergraduate class-room. The book should find many readers whose undergraduate days have long since passed. The authors are to be thanked for its production.

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