are commended to all who, immersed in narrow routines or in specialized studies, wish to broaden their horizons and renew their appreciation of the history of our science. Old and young, venerable scholar and graduate student, will here find interest and inspiration for their further endeavor.

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Electronics. An electrical engineering approach. George F. Corcoran and Henry W. Price. Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1954. x + 459 pp. Illus. $7.

This is primarily an introductory textbook on active or electronic circuits. After a cursory treatment of such physical electronic topics as ballistics, space charge, and thermionic emission, the text proceeds through a discussion of vacuum diodes, multielement vacuum tubes, linear active circuits, nonlinear active circuits, feedback, principles and application of gas-filled tubes, germanium diodes, transistors, and transistor amplifiers.

The authors have made a laudable attempt to emphasize fundamental principles. This emphasis is particularly evident in the chapters on transistors and oscillators, and to a certain degree in the material on feedback. However, in the chapter on linear operation this point of view is not carried out to the same extent. For example, the nodal analysis method is introduced at the very end of the chapter when it could have been profitably used throughout the preceding material. In the chapter on vacuum diodes the authors fail to seize the opportunity to explicitly point out the piecewise linear method of analyzing a nonlinear problem. Aside from these lapses, I feel that this is a creditable piece of work with respect to the treatment of the active circuits.

In view of the good treatment of circuits, it is extremely unfortunate that the material in the first two chapters constitutes such a handicap to the remainder. I assume that the authors intended to treat certain electric and magnetic field quantities as vectors since they are printed in boldface type. These quantities are then treated with a complete disregard for their vector character. This can only serve to create confusion or false impressions regarding the fundamental quantities of electric and magnetic fields in the mind of the student. In addition, the relationships between electric and magnetic fluxes and their corresponding densities as given are valid only for uniform fields, but this is not pointed out.

I believe that this textbook suffers from a certain lack of consistency in approach and from some fundamental deficiencies which considerably reduce the effectiveness of presentation. Despite these shortcomings, however, it compares favorably with others in its field.

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The Permanent Revolution in Science. Richard L. Schanck. Philosophical Library, New York, 1954. xvi + 112 pp. $3.

I have read this book through slowly and carefully —it is a short book—yet I have no feeling of having understood what the the author was trying to say. There is a horrid suspicion in my mind that the trouble may be with me rather than with the book, which makes for difficulty in writing a review. The jacket "blurb" says that "it is the thesis of the author that a common method has been emerging in the different sciences which recaptures the dynamism of teleology without the fallacy of local cause and which preserves the field theory of mechanism without asserting invariance of behavior of the element." That sentence, I suspect, summarizes the book nicely; and anyone to whom this seems clear and cogent will probably enjoy the book itself.

Much of my trouble in reading can be traced to vocabulary allergies. The book is about "methodology," a word which, by itself, causes an almost immediate suspension of my thought processes. Philosophy, the author points out, will wither away as methodology develops, and somehow all sorts of things like ethics, aesthetics, progress, and "relative absolutes" will come into flower as this withering proceeds. The "revolution" in the method of science that the author is writing about finds its clearest expression in Marx and Freud—which may explain my confusion. Dialectic keeps bobbing up throughout the text, and there I have to struggle with another allergy. In my case, then, there was a complete failure in communication—but I neglected to take antihistamine before starting to read.

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Recent Progress in Hormone Research. vol. IX. Proceedings of the Laurentian Hormone Conference. Gregory Pincus, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1954. 467 pp. Illus. $9.50.

This is a report of a special interim meeting of the Laurentian Hormone Conference held at Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Its deliberations were strictly confined to techniques, and there was no discussion, except only incidentally and casually, of the broader concepts involving the function, origin, and control of the steroid hormones. This fact is clearly indicated in an obscure position in the preface to volume IX where the title of the conference is given as "Methods of steroid determination in blood and urine." The book, therefore, stands apart from companion members of the series, which, up until now, have been mostly concerned with physiological and clinical matters.

It is a highly valuable and useful volume, in fact a must for anyone who is interested in measuring or determining in a precise way the steroids found in blood and urine. It is not, however, recommended to the general reader unless he has a broad and intimate