of medical doctrine," but his central argument is not at all clear. One gains from the frequent philosophical excursions of this work a renewed acquaintance with the fact that medical thought does change and that it has tended to become more rigorous and more objective.

One also learns that many factors (observation, experimentation, quantification, reason) contribute to the formation of sound scientific methodology. Unfortunately, what one does not learn is what it is that makes a repetition of these truisms useful. The episodic approach compounds and perhaps even induces this situation, for the author never really tells us what our lesson should be. This story emerges only painfully, and as the result of the reader's own efforts, from the innumerable scattered pieces. These pieces, incidentally, are often colored by passages of extraordinary cleverness, such as that which traces Galen's acrimoniousness to a "chromosomal legacy from his mother" (p. 44).

The episodes are complete and interesting narratives in themselves and, depending upon the subject, are based upon the best secondary studies or upon thorough readings in the primary sources. *The Growth of Medical Thought* is not a work of historical scholarship, but this seems not to have been the author's intention. However, each unit is so independent that it usurps attention from the whole and again abuses the principal aim of the work. It is thus difficult to welcome the volume, for its original and philosophical motive is wholly obscured and its historical foundations exist only to serve its philosophy.

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Notes

Multilingual Glossary

Elsevier's Dictionary of General Physics in Six Languages: English/American, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, and German (Elsevier, New York, 1962. 859 pp. $22.50), compiled by W. E. Clason, lists 3409 terms used in various branches of physics. The entries, primarily compound nouns, adjectives, and combinations thereof, are briefly defined and followed by their foreign-language equivalents. Reverse indexes are provided for each foreign language. This glossary is up to the high standards set by Clason in other polyglot dictionaries. According to the publisher's note, the planning has "been guided by certain principles proposed by UNESCO."

One can agree with the compiler's statement that "no explanatory dictionary of physics can aspire to be both comprehensive and up-to-date." However, acronyms (such as *maser* and *laser*) and concepts (such as metrology, magnetohydrodynamics, power, and reference standards) should have been included, and the inclusion of verbal phrases that are frequently used in physics would also have been useful. Furthermone, since physicists are interested in research efforts in the U.S.S.R., listing the equivalent Russian terms would have enhanced the compilation's value. The publisher's practice of issuing Russian supplements has not proved very satisfactory because of the time lag, the additional expense, and the inconvenience of using the supplements.

Despite these shortcomings, this polyglot dictionary (one of the few recent ones in general physics) is well adapted for use by physicists who are not too conversant with foreign languages and by technical translators, reference librarians, and students.

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Astronomy

Yearbook of Astronomy, 1963 (Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, 1962; Norton, New York, 1963. 222 pp. Paper, $3.50), edited by J. G. Porter and Patrick Moore, is designed to give general information on current astronomical events for the "practising amateur and the arm-chair astronomer." It contains a series of star charts with notes on astronomical phenomena for each month. Half of the book consists of short articles on such topics as eyepieces, problems of Mars, and recent advances in astronomy. These serve as short introductions to many fields of astronomy. The information on events is relatively complete and includes positions of planets, lists of eclipses, meteor showers, and expected comet returns. It does not provide information on occultations or on the phenomena of Jupiter's satellites. A serious drawback is that the star charts do not have coordinate systems and the stars are not labeled. Thus, the telescopic objects listed in the book cannot be found without recourse to some other reference source.

I do not think the book is a very good guide for observers. Better and more complete information is available elsewhere. The short articles are at best rather sketchy surveys. The book suffers from lack of an index, and its price is excessively high for a paperback.

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Ceramics

Science of Ceramics [(vol. 1) Academic Press, New York, 1962. 334 pp. Illus. $11.50], edited by G. H. Stewart, is the proceedings of a conference held at Oxford in June 1961 under the auspices of the British Ceramic Society and the Nederlandse Keramische Vereniging. The volume includes 23 papers, 20 in English and 3 in German.

The title is somewhat misleading since the scientific content and technical level of the papers vary widely. The papers range from reviews of basic phenomena such as sintering through reports of original research on phenomena and techniques, and they include brief reports on technical applications of raw materials and ceramic products. No attempt has been made to edit the collection into a coherent whole or to provide a uniform scientific and technical level. Seven papers are concerned with sintering, reaction kinetics, and firing processes, two papers with glazes, four papers with experimental techniques, five papers with the preparation and characteristics of raw materials, three papers with particular properties, and two papers with the formulation and application of specific products.

Professional ceramists will find the book worthwhile both for specific content and as an indication of the range and scope of current ceramic science in western Europe. The book is not recommended for the reader who wants or expects a coherent presentation of the science of ceramics.

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