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salts; energy relations in chemical reactions, reduction and oxidations; production of iron and steel; slags and high-temperature chemistry; aluminum; magnesium; other applications of electrochemistry; the manufacture of chemicals; silicates, glass, and colloids; ceramic and cement; industrial water; fuels and combustion, organic chemistry (theory); plastics; rubber; and the refining of petroleum.

A first reading gives at once the impression that the authors are in earnest and are trying their best in the interest of their students, for whom they obviously feel a warm sympathy. It may be that this is the type of semiscientific information which is best suited for the purpose. The reviewer feels, however, that it is preferable to present the subject in the frankly untechnical manner of writing for the intelligent layman to be found in the *New York Times*, for example. The present method uses repeatedly oversimplified information, which is quite all right, but includes chemical terminology in sufficient quantity to disguise this fact, and the reviewer feels that this may give the students the impression that they know more, or understand more, than they actually do. The reviewer also looks askance at the kind of similes introducing Chapter II, which liken the desire of the atoms to live together in molecules to the fact that a man will be attracted by the earth if he walks off a roof, or to the difficulty of pulling apart two surfaces of polished metal. Since the book is to be used by novices, it would be well to use pictures of molecular models made of colored balls and pegs. The Hirschfelder models are admittedly more correct, but they do not speak to the imagination of the uninitiated.

ALBERT L. HENNE

Ohio State University

Physics of the twentieth century. Pascual Jordan. (Translated by Eleanor Oshty.) New York: Philosophical Library, 1944. Pp. xii + 185.

Those interested in the philosophy of science, whether they be professional scientists, philosophers, or intelligent laymen, will welcome this discussion of the epistemology of modern physics. Well written in nontechnical terms and apparently excellently translated (though the reviewer has not had access to the original) the book discusses first the assumptions of classical physics, followed by a lucid treatment of the simpler facts of modern physics and the revision in methodology which these facts, particularly quantum and wave mechanics, have made necessary.

The author, like some others, prefers the positivistic approach to the problems involved in attaining scientific knowledge. He considers metaphysical speculation concerning the *essence* of physical reality as unprofitable and dangerous to science, thus limiting the "philosophy of science" to a consideration of scientific epistemology or ways of knowing. "Up to our time," he writes, "the opinion has remained that it is the task of philosophy to clarify certain 'final' and most general questions of natural science; questions which concern perhaps the 'existence' of matter or the 'existence' of time and space or the 'existence' of force or the 'final' bases of 'ex-

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