

the wealth of illustration and clarity of statement result in a wholly delightful book.

(2) Prof. Saunders' survey also produces a very favourable impression. Without being superficial, or straining for effect, the author has succeeded in giving an account of the subject matter of physics covering a surprisingly wide field, the writing being accurate and restrained, but never lacking in interest. The scope of the book may be realised when it is mentioned that, to take only a few haphazard examples, the mass spectrograph and isotopes, quanta, the Raman and Compton effects, spectrum series, atmospheric electricity and cosmic rays, acoustics of buildings, solar radiation, and Bernoulli's principle are among the many matters dealt with.

The author does not lose sight of the essence of physics as a coherent and systematic body of thought; indeed, the distinction of his work lies in the way this is apparent, while at the same time up-to-date practical applications, theory, and research all find their place. The clear diagrams and well-chosen illustrations merit a word of commendation. It is a pleasure to find a book of this kind which, instead of being a heterogeneous compilation, either childish or incomprehensible, is such an admirable example of what this sort of thing should be.

(3) Profs. Franklin and Grantham have prepared an elementary treatise, most of the 694 pages of which are taken up with work of a standard nature, although more advanced and comparatively recent ideas are incorporated—unfortunately, not always too clearly. The volume is interspersed with short essays or paragraphs of a general character with titles such as "The Wisdom of Ignorance", "The Illusion of Activity", "Wave Mechanics", and "The Modern Idolatry", which do not appear to add materially to the value of the book.

Features worthy of mention are the liberal sprinkling of problems in connexion with the text, and the analogy of electrostatic with electromagnetic quantities and that existing between the latter and mechanical units. The book is primarily intended for American students; whether it has any particular value in Great Britain is doubtful.

(4) With the completion of the section on sound, Dr. Houstoun has been able to collect the various parts of his "Intermediate Physics" into one volume. The subject matter is presented in the direct, clear manner which one has learned to associate with the author, and a reliable, convenient textbook is thus made available.

Short Reviews.

A Brief History of Medicine in Massachusetts. By Dr. Henry R. Viets. Pp. xii + 194 + 8 plates. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1930.) 4 dollars.

THIS work, which is issued on the occasion of the tercentenary celebration of the settling of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Medical Society, is divided into seven chapters. The first is an introduction, in which a sketch is given of contemporary medicine in Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The second chapter deals with the colonial period dating from the landing of the pilgrims from England on Dec. 21, 1620, to the end of the seventeenth century, during which the bond between the clergy and the medical profession gradually became severed. In the third chapter, which is concerned with the eighteenth century to the American Revolution in 1775, the author shows that medicine in Massachusetts during that period was characterised by severe epidemics of small-pox, partially controlled by the introduction of inoculation in 1721, strict enforcement of quarantine in the fort of Boston, improvement in the tone of medical practice, the establishment of a medical society, the appearance of sporadic medical literature, and the divorce of medicine from the influence of the ministers.

In the fourth chapter, the effects of the American Revolution and the formation of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Harvard Medical School are described. The fifth chapter is concerned with the early nineteenth century, during which Benjamin Waterhouse introduced vaccination into the United States, the Massachusetts General Hospital and *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* were founded, Jacob Bigelow published his work on self-limited diseases, and Oliver Wendell Holmes his classical paper on puerperal fever. The sixth chapter is devoted to an account of the discovery in 1846 of ether anæsthesia by the dentist, W. T. G. Morton, described by Dr. Viets as the most important advance in medicine made in the United States. The last chapter contains a sketch of the contributions by Boston men to medicine and surgery from 1847 to the present day.

The work is illustrated by several portraits and a list of references is appended.

Environment and Plant Development. Being "Klima und Boden in ihrer Wirkung auf das Pflanzenleben". By Prof. Dr. Henrik Lundegårdh. Translated and edited from the second German edition by Eric Ashby. Pp. xii + 330 + 8 plates. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1931.) 24s. net.

THE keynote of this book is the author's invitation to the student to go out into the field and to study the living plant in its natural surroundings as well as the natural environment of the plant. He pays full tribute to investigations which have been conducted in the laboratory, but