
Essentials of Astronomy

In "Essentials" Mr. Duncan has condensed and simplified the treatment of the material included in his more detailed book on the same subject. The result, on the whole, is good. Other authors have attempted to do the same less successfully. Mr. Duncan has had the advantage of writing another text similar to although more difficult than his "Essentials" and the treatment of the latter shows evidence of the experienced hand.

Objectively speaking, the book is good for the following reasons: First, the language is simple and straightforward. The story is told quickly before the reader has a chance to become confused. Second, the choice of material is such that it encourages observation by the reader. This is highly desirable in the opinion of the reviewer. Much of recent writing tends in the fairy tale direction, taking the reader farther from his personal experiences rather than closer to it. Third, the text is leavened by many delightful quotations from classic literature that continually suggests the inspiration which came to those who looked for and saw the phenomena of which the author speaks.

This book is strongly recommended to all, young and old, who have wished for a pleasant but not too profound acquaintance with the objects in the skies above us.—*C. E. Hesthal*.

Essentials of Astronomy, by John Charles Duncan, pp. 181. Harper and Brothers, New York, 1942. \$1.85.