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**Pocket Encyclopedia of Atomic Energy.** *Frank Gaynor*, Editor. Philosophical Library, Inc. New York, N. Y. First Edition. 1950. 204 pp. \$7.50.

This publication is another of the numerous recent attempts to place a comprehensive collection of the information of nuclear physics in easily digested capsule form for the general public. Convenient features are the alphabetical listings and cross references of some two thousand entries.

The information included covers the elements, radioactive series, units of physics and chemistry, important types of nuclear reactions, information on nuclear research laboratories, and thumbnail biographies of leading nuclear scientists. The following are typical of the tables included in the book: Periodic Table; Stable and unstable isotopes with radiations given off during decay; Nuclear neutron excess as a function of atomic number; Nuclear spin quantum numbers; Reactors in the United States; Sub-atomic particles; Radioactive tracers most widely used in medicine and biology with their principal uses and metabolic properties. The tables also give German equivalents of most terms.

One naturally compares this book with the *Sourcebook on Atomic Energy* which was written by Dr. Glasstone about the same time. The *Sourcebook* presents a more logical, interesting, and readable account of nuclear energy in its present state. The *Pocket Encyclopedia* offers a somewhat more handy means for ready reference since entries are alphabetical. The scope of the *Encyclopedia* is very ambitious for its 204 pages, but the brevity of some entries decreases its value appreciably. However, in general, the information presented is straightforward and in terms such that an unspecialized person can obtain a qualitative idea from most entries.

Reading the book, one gets the impression at times that the author copied his material without sufficient critical scientific editing. Several obvious misprints occur which should have been caught in proofreading.

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