
Europe. *Samuel Van Valkenburg and Colbert C. Held.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. Second edition, 1952. xiv+826 pp. $7.50.

This new edition of the first issue published in 1935 by the senior author and Ellsworth Huntington, follows essentially the original pattern. In some respects it has been simplified through the removal of part of the geological and geomorphological material and the placing of emphasis upon the humanistic aspects of Europe's problems. Still more of the technical phases could be withdrawn without detracting from its usefulness, inasmuch as most of the students taking geography courses do not specialize in the field and do not take a course in geology as prerequisite to regional courses.

The treatment of Europe as a whole first, followed by consideration of individual countries, as did the earlier volume, should satisfy both those who like to deal with a continent exclusively from the regional point of view and those who recognize that the partition of the area into sovereign states is a reality which should not be ignored.

Statistical data, subject to quick change in an unstable world, have been reasonably well eliminated from the body of the book and thereby improved its readability. Captions associated with photographs might well be more interpretative and many of the so-called maps could be converted to true maps by the introduction of meridians and parallels. It is unfortunate that American geographers increasingly omit these indispensable characteristics of maps.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

Ultraviolet Radiation. *Lewis R. Koller.* John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1952. ix+270 pp. $6.50.

This book is written for the person who will use ultraviolet radiation as a tool, rather than for the specialist who is thoroughly familiar with the nature of this short-wave radiation and its applications.

The book should be especially helpful to the medical man by providing a background for an understanding of his use of ultraviolet radiation. For example, after reading the book, he should know whether radiation of wavelength longer or shorter than 2800 Angstroms will be better for accomplishing his purpose. Furthermore, he will know whether a high pressure or low pressure mercury arc will be better.

The physicist who reads the book will find little that is said incorrectly or loosely, and will find descriptions of many applications which emphasize how powerful a tool it can be when used properly.

Separate chapters deal with: arcs, the principle source of ultraviolet; incandescent bodies as weak, but convenient, sources; the sun as a source; transmission; reflection; and detectors of this radiation. Also, there is a chapter in which many interesting applications are discussed. The text is documented excellently, there being 77 tables and 148 figures. These tables, although not intended to be complete, make the book of some use for reference purposes.

The style makes for easy reading. The author has used very few words that are unfamiliar to any reader. While all may read it, this reviewer would be especially pleased to see it on the required list of reading for potential medical men.

ROBERT A. OETJEN.