
Introduction to the Atmosphere. *Herbert Riehl.* McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 1965.
xii+365 p. \$8.95.

This text is intended as a "concise yet thorough view of the field" to a non-specialist in a "terminal" college course, as well as a reference volume for others. In addition to an introductory survey chapter, the text covers most aspects of weather and climate within a four-section structure. These sections are (1) the physical processes of radiation, vertical and horizontal air movements, evaporation, condensation and precipitation; (2) weather disturbances in the low, middle, and high latitudes; (3) climates and their controls on both the macro- and micro-scale; and (4) weather and climate applications in water management, aerospace, and problems of design. Three appendices treat the reading of weather maps, conversion scales, and data sources.

In general, this work gives a fairly thorough treatment of most aspects of atmospheric science. The basic physical processes involved are treated in sufficient detail in some 140 pages. Weather disturbances are discussed in another 60 pages in parts *I* and *II*. Climates and their controls are treated much too briefly in 75 pages, with none of the well-known systems of climate classification presented, while the applied aspects of weather and climate, an area of increasing interest to many to whom this text is addressed, receive less than 60 pages in parts *III* and *IV* respectively.

For a survey text in the field of atmospheric science, much recent up-to-date material is presented concisely in easily understandable form. However, as a terminal course for the non-specialist, it is lacking both in development of climatic regions and in development of the many important facets of knowledge, such as bio-climatology, microclimates of urbanized areas, etc. to which atmospheric science has been and is being applied.

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