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Book Notices

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This text was prepared by Dr. Glasstone under the direction of the technical information service of the AEC, and thoroughly reviewed by AEC personnel for correctness of material and security details prior to publication.

The aim of the author is to present a ready source of information on Atomic (Nuclear) Energy for the layman and for the physical scientist who has not specialized in nuclear physics. A comprehensive elementary survey of Atomic Energy is given in a semi-narrative form. For the most part, topics are grouped into chapters according to subject matter; the general arrangement of material is in historical sequence in so far as this is compatible with a logical presentation. The material is presented in such fashion that a minimum background in physics and mathematics is required for intelligent reading. Accuracy of the material presented is such that the Sourcebook should also be of interest to the physical scientist not specializing in atomic or nuclear physics, especially since most of the topics mentioned in the book are now assumed to be the entire sum and substance of contemporary physics by the general public. The subject index contains more than 1500 entries and greatly enhances the value of the book for reference work.

Atomic (Nuclear) Energy is playing an increasingly important part in our lives and it is important that all our citizens know something about its implications and possibilities. To date a general dissemination of reliable information on Atomic Energy has been meager due to security restrictions deemed necessary for national safety and language difficulties which arise between the technical man and the layman in any subject. The Sourcebook goes a long way toward solving the second difficulty.

Edward S. Foster, Jr.