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**Scientific Russian Reader.** *Noah D. Gershevsky.* Pitman Publishing Corporation. New York. First Edition. 1948. xxii+253 pp. \$4.00.

This text is important because it represents the first serious post war effort in this country to produce a Scientific Russian Reader. As Professor Gershevsky very aptly points out, the importance of Russian Science is increasing in all fields and thus the desirability for American Men of Science to become familiar with the Russian language also has increased greatly.

Previous publications on Scientific Russian have been, for the most part, the work of Russian language students who became interested in Scientific Russian as a sideline. This text is different. As an engineer, Professor Gershevsky has a good understanding of the needs of the technical man in his use of a foreign language.

The *Reader* presupposes the equivalent of one term of instruction in Russian. The exercises cover graded topics in Chemistry (28 sections) and Physics (85 sections) taken directly from Russian publications written by Russians with no modifications. Thus the material contains the same construction and idiom as the original Russian publications one might desire to consult. Notes by the author on the difficult and idiomatic passages in each lesson follow the Russian text material. A short vocabulary section giving the new technical terms in each exercise is also included. The general vocabulary section of the book appears quite complete, although there are some omissions; furthermore, the print is so small that it would present difficulties for anyone not familiar with the cyrillic alphabet.

Each lesson in the book covers essentially one topic. The index contains the lesson headings in both Russian and English. Thus the student may quickly choose the topics most interesting or most vital to him at the time. In so doing he would lose the benefit of the graded difficulty in the selections as arranged.

Only the fields of Chemistry and Physics are covered in this text for the following reasons:

1. A text covering all fields would involve a very wide selection of topics, many of which would not be of general interest. An unwieldy and expensive book would result.
2. Chemistry and Physics are basic to all fields of science and engineering and can serve as good springboards for other fields.

Professor Gershevsky plans special readers for other fields at a later date. These will be awaited with much interest.

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