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**Radiation Counters and Detectors.** *C. C. H. Washell.* Philosophical Library Inc., New York. 1960. \$7.50.

The stated purpose of this book is "to provide a simple introduction to radiocative detectors and measurement techniques for . . . those possessing only a general scientific education." The author has succeeded for the most part. Early experiments and their importance are mentioned briefly as are the basic elements of atomic and nuclear structure. The main portion of this book is devoted to the principles of operation of the better known radiation detectors. Some space is devoted to special purpose detectors for workers in a variety of fields using radioisotopes. Fortunately, the author, although British, has restricted himself to using only a few of the technical terms that differ on opposite sides of the Atlantic (e.g., "valve" for "vacuum tube" and "lead castle" for "lead shield").

Perhaps too many pages are devoted to details of construction techniques since this book is an introduction to the subject. Twenty-two pages are in tabular form listing commercially available detectors of various types along with some of their characteristics. Unfortunately, of the eight suppliers mentioned by the author, only one is not British and hence most of the detectors mentioned are not readily available in this country. The book is liberally illustrated with 36 diagrams and 16 half-tone plates (most of them photographs).

The book is probably not suitable as a textbook for most laboratory courses, but it could be valuable to a worker contemplating the use of radioisotopes in his field. The author has supplied a clear, elementary discussion of the subject.

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