
The Electron. *Robert Andrews Millikan.* University of Chicago Press, Chicago (reprint of first, 1917 edition). 1963. 238 p. 29 illus. cloth \$6.00, paperback \$2.45.

This reprint is a facsimile of the original 1917 edition and "in the interests of bibliographical integrity errors rectified in the second edition here stand uncorrected." In the ten chapters which cover the range from "Early Views of Electricity" to "The Nature of Radiant Energy" are described the many researches of Dr. Millikan dealing with the determination of the charge on the electron, the photoelectric effect, and Brownian movements in gases, together with the then currently developing views on atomic structure. At the time it was written, the book attempted to bring the physicist and "the reader of somewhat less technical training" up to date on the latest developments in modern physics. Today, the book should appeal to anyone with an interest in science, for it presents an excellent picture, historically, of the events which led up to the development of the Bohr theory of the atom and the flavor of research at that time. The body of the text maintains, unbroken, the thread of the discussion; the "detailed analyses which the careful student demands" are to be found in the eight appendices at the end.

The 47-page introduction by Dr. Jesse W. M. DuMond, a close associate of Dr. Millikan, not only contains a number of interesting anecdotes of Millikan's personal life and work, but also gives a succinct sketch of the evolution of our knowledge of the electron from the discovery of the photoelectric effect by Hertz in 1887 to the discovery of the muon by Anderson and Neddermeyer in 1937. In addition, his four-page "Calendar of Some Events in Research in Physics Which Occurred Between 1883 and 1953" serves as a very handy reference.

HOWARD N. MAXWELL