
Fundamental Formulas of Physics. *Donald H. Menzel*, Editor. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York, 1955. xxxv+765 pp. \$10.65.

This book is meant to be a comprehensive reference book on the fundamental formulas of mathematical physics. Material from such border fields as mathematics, chemistry, astronomy, meteorology, biology and electronics is also included.

The book is divided into thirty-one chapters. Each chapter is a unit in itself and covers a particular branch of physics or an allied field. The chapters are arranged in an orderly sequence beginning with "Basic Mathematical Formulas" and progressing through mathematics, physics and other border fields. Each chapter is written by one or two persons who are among the foremost authorities in their particular field. While the styles and modes of presentation vary in that some authors merely list the basic formulas while others have added appreciable explanatory text, the overall effect is most satisfactory.

There is enough explanatory text in the places where most needed to make the book much more than the title might imply. It is much more than a handbook of formulas. The book can serve as a guide for research, as an aid in reviewing a familiar field, or for gaining an insight into a new field.

FRED P. DICKEY.