

of the earlier theorems are not referred to their sources, but to later proofs of them given in works supposed to be more accessible.

The writing and proofreading have been done with great care; apart from a few trivial errors in orthography, the only error is the reference to G. Kantor, footnote on page 131, instead of S. Kantor.

This book will be welcomed by workers in algebraic geometry; it competently fills a gap in the preparatory literature.

VIRGIL SNYDER

*Modern Science, A Study of Physical Science in the World Today.* By Hyman Levy. New York, Knopf, 1939. 736 pp. 160 illustrations.

Professor Levy's ability to present general relationships and abstractions in an interesting simple way has been commended by reviewers of his previous recent book "A Philosophy for a Modern Man." This faculty is again evident in his analysis and evaluation of social and intellectual forces in the development of physical science.

Part I of the book deals with the background of social life within which science has developed as one among many "channels" of human energy. In an interesting discussion Professor Levy contends that the work of men like Newton was largely a consequence of commercial and other social factors rather than a spontaneous intellectual activity.

Part II is concerned with the nature, methods and unity of science. Considerable stress is laid on the common occurrence of sequences of phases separated by discontinuities in physical processes. Many usually overlooked examples of these phases are given.

Parts III, IV and V deal with mathematical symbols and physical (theoretical) models. Some general algebraic and geometrical concepts are discussed. The idea of limits is presented in a remarkably concrete way. The rigor is surprisingly good for a popular discussion, but there are some undesirable implications, for example, termwise differentiability of infinite series is accepted without question. An instructive treatment of mass, momentum, impulse and energy is given. Aeronautical science is used to illustrate the unity of theory and experiment. The development of non-euclidean geometries is used to illustrate how science can "shake off the past."

Part VI is rather discursive in its discussion of astronomy, geology, atomic theory and relativity. The treatment of mountain building does not include the more modern theories of Joly and others.

Part VII on the "Age of Light" uses the history of methods of illumination and their social consequences to illustrate the depend-