BOOK REVIEWS

Development of the sciences. Second series. By Oystein Ore, Frank Schlesinger, Henry Margenau, John Arrend Timm, Chester Ray Longwell, Lorande Loss Woodruff, Walter Richard Miles, John Farquhar Fulton. New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Humphrey Milford and Oxford University Press, 1941. 10+336 pp. $3.00.

Keyed to the present interest in scientific advance, these chapters form a short introduction to science, its methods and ideas, background and trends. The presentation is not technical but designed for the general reader. The material was first offered during the winter and spring of 1940 as a series of public lectures sponsored by the Yale University chapter of Gamma Alpha. It comprises discussions by eight well known Yale scientists, representing the fields of mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, physics, geology, biology, psychology, and medicine. Each of the first seven lectures traces the development of one of the basic sciences from its beginnings to its most recent results. The last lecture shows the interdependence of these various sciences as illustrated by specific examples in the history of medicine.

The preceding statements are quoted literally from the jacket of the book under review. Since the book comprises less than three hundred and fifty pages, it is obvious that the presentation is extremely concise. But the reviewer found that it makes interesting and stimulating reading, and feels that the book cannot fail to convey to the general reader an overwhelming impression of the power of the human mind engaged in unselfish and purposeful endeavors. The chapter on mathematics, written by O. Ore, comes up in every way to the well known standards of depth of thought and clarity of presentation of its author. This chapter should be very valuable to graduate students of mathematics who, as a rule, have little help in obtaining an integrated picture of mathematics from the historical point of view. It is to be hoped that this chapter may be made available to this particular group of readers in some mathematical journal, possibly in somewhat extended form.

TIBOR RADÓ

The methodology of Pierre Duhem. By Armand Lowinger. New York, Columbia University Press, 1941. 184 pp. $2.25.

Pierre Duhem (1861–1916) was an outstanding French physicist whose work was mainly concerned with thermodynamics, but he