BOOK REVIEWS

Lumineszenz, Ergebnisse und Anwendungen in Physik, Chemie und Biologie, FRITZ BANDOW, Physik und Technik Bd 2. Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., Stuttgart, 1950, 255 S., 80 Abbildungen.

As mentioned in the preface, the author's aim has chiefly been to communicate experimental data. Theoretical observations are as briefly worded as possible. The book is divided into eight parts; the last part, dealing with the relations between luminescence and photochemistry, will be of special interest to biochemists and biophysicists. For the benefit of non-physicists, however, some theoretical parts are more concise than the sub-title would suggest, *e.g.* the treatment of the FRANCK-CONDON principle (III, 3.7).

Many investigations—mostly German—are discussed. More than 500 publications are referred to. At the end of the book a list of important books is included. It is regrettable that the literature has not been gathered into a conveniently arranged list, but is mentioned in foot-notes. Moreover the name of the author has been omitted in these notes, when it has been named in the text.

The chapter on chlorophyll fluorescence chiefly deals with KAUTSKY's work. The author observes that it is his intention to give possibilities of application, rather than to depict the most complete picture of the problem involved.

Finally three practical tables are included in the work.

In summing up, it may be recommended as a book that can be of service to the investigator concerned with problems of luminescence.

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Chemistry and Biology of Proteins, by FELIX HAUROWITZ; pp. xii and 374, 52 illustrations, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1950, $ 5.50.

Anyone who has followed the rapid and widespread developments of research on proteins during the past fifteen years or so will be impressed by the ease with which the author has compressed into one smallish volume the pith of so much extensive knowledge. Proteins are today the objects of study to workers in many different fields of enquiry: advances all along the line have been rapid, in some cases dramatic, and it is probable that no one now has the necessary background for the writing on his own of a comprehensive treatise covering the whole subject. Dr HAUROWITZ has wisely recognised this and his account is centred largely around the fundamental aspects represented by the structure of proteins, their biological activity and their biosynthesis: he leaves more or less untreated the metabolism of proteins, their technology and advanced studies in their physical chemistry.

The standard textbooks on proteins available before the war have been out of print for many years past. Though in the meanwhile this has probably been very hard on the students it has really been to their ultimate good, for their embarrassment has been mild compared with that of the teacher who from time to time has felt obliged to warn them in his lectures that many parts of these good old books are best left unread today, *e.g.* those dealing with methods of analysis, which are now quite outdated, and those dealing with structure hypotheses, most of which are now known to be quite false. Dr HAUROWITZ's book is the outcome of a one semester course on proteins to graduate students and it is a pleasure to observe how skillfully he has woven the newer knowledge around the core of the old. The data is presented in seventeen very readable chapters, each of which carries