

will be given here: (1) "The Earth's Atmosphere", (2) "The Ionosphere", (3) "Tracking and Telemetry", (4) "Solar Radiation", (5) "Cosmic Radiation", (6) "Interplanetary Dust", (7) "The Moon and the Planets". Radiation from celestial sources is included under "Solar Radiation". The 100 papers cover mostly the two years of space research from the launching of the first artificial satellite to the time of the conference. Since another symposium is planned by the committee for next spring, there can be little doubt that this volume is just the beginning of an important series, and it is to be hoped that the future conferences and their proceedings will enjoy the same success as the first.

R. L. F. BOYD

### Health Physics in Nuclear Installations

Symposium organised at the Danish Atomic Energy Centre, Risø, 25-28 May, 1959. Pp. 410. (Paris: Organization for European Economic Co-operation, European Nuclear Energy Agency; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1959.) 2,500 francs; 37s. 6d.; 6 dollars; 21.30 D.M.

THIS volume contains thirty-two papers delivered at a conference on health physics in nuclear installations, held at Risø, near Copenhagen, in May 1959, under the auspices of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and the Danish Atomic Energy Commission. The purpose of the conference was partly to introduce the subject to those entering this field, and partly to permit the presentation and discussion of new results. Accordingly there are several introductory papers on such subjects as the biological effects of ionizing radiations, the basis of the maximum permissible levels of exposure, and measuring techniques.

These are followed by papers on the control of radiation-levels and of the contamination of personnel. Practical problems of health physics and criticality control in specific types of installation, including reactors, chemical plant, and high-energy accelerators, are discussed. There is a final section on emergency situations.

All the papers are by acknowledged experts from the United States, Great Britain and Europe, and are authoritative and well produced. This is a valuable record for those who attended the conference. However, for those new to the subject, it does not quite take the place of a well-organized text-book, and, since practically all the information it contains can be found in the technical literature, it is of limited use to experts. The volume will probably be a useful addition to many libraries.

W. J. WHITEHOUSE

### Absorption Spectra in the Ultraviolet and Visible Region

Edited by Dr. L. Lang, in collaboration with Dr. J. Szöke, Dr. G. Varsányi and M. Vizesy. Vol. 1: Pp. 414. Vol. 2: A Theoretical and Technical Introduction. Pp. 80. (Budapest: Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; London: Collet's Holdings, Ltd., 1959.) 137s. 6d.

THESE are the first two volumes of a series in which "subsequent volumes will contain spectra of foreign authors and the collection will thus emerge from its strictly national environment and assume an international character". Volume 1 includes the spectra of some two hundred assorted substances,

mostly in solution, in the form of graphs of  $\log \epsilon$  against wave-length supplemented with tables of selected values of  $\log I/I_0$  at different wave-lengths for specified concentrations. The volume contains separate substance and formula indexes, but no attempt has been made at classification. It is impossible briefly to indicate the nature of the substances considered—which range from complex compounds of cobalt through substituted benzenes to phenanthrenes, flavones and xanthins. These are presented in loose-leaf: unhappily, the file containing the sheets of the review copy was not strong enough for its job.

Volume 2 consists of a "theoretical and technical" introduction. The text is some forty pages long. It will scarcely help those who know some spectroscopy already, and it is, naturally, too condensed to be of much value as an introduction. It is written in English which is nearly always intelligible but often odd. The discussion of the emission from a hydrogen lamp is not only odd but also incorrect.

The preparation of a reference set of ultra-violet spectra presents an enormous task, in which the first step is to adopt a practical classification. It is indeed useful to have the Hungarian results collected together, but this random sample seems unlikely to serve as a basis for the ultimate catalogue of these spectra.

R. F. BARROW

### An Introduction to Industrial Mycology

By George Smith. Fifth edition. Pp. xvi+399. (London: Edward Arnold (Publishers), Ltd., 1960.) 40s. net.

THE publication in 1938 of *An Introduction to Industrial Mycology* by Mr. George Smith was a marked contribution to the study of moulds. That the book has now reached its fifth edition is evidence of how well it has been received. The text of the fifth edition includes descriptions of a few genera and species of fungi which were not previously included, and the relevant literature of systematic mycology which has appeared since the publication of the fourth edition in 1954 has been considered.

The major portion of the book is devoted to descriptions and illustrations of most genera of moulds which regularly occur on industrial products. This section is of considerable value to students of general mycology especially because of the attention devoted to members of the Fungi Imperfecti and particularly to species of *Penicillium* and *Aspergillus*. The remainder of the book provides a most useful introduction to beginners in mycology, since it deals with laboratory equipment and techniques including microscopy and photomicrography. Mr. Smith is to be congratulated on presenting the subject-matter in a most readable form with complicated terminology reduced to a minimum. One of the delightful features of the text is the manner in which the author draws on his rich store of experience and gives practical advice on techniques and staining which is invaluable to newcomers in the field.

Almost all the illustrations are from original photomicrographs and, being of high quality, add greatly to the value of the book. As compared with the previous edition, one figure has now been omitted; but replacements of four plates and new illustrations of eight species are included. The publishers have maintained the high standard shown by the previous edition. JOHN COLHOUN