Books Received

The undermentioned works have been received by the Editors. Mention here does not preclude review at a later date.


This booklet gives a clear explanation of the principles of the measurement of interfacial angles, and the representation of them by stereographic and gnomic projections. The practical details of the use of a two-circle goniometer are given, and there is an eight-page description of the Barker Index of Crystals and its use for identification. The booklet should be very useful for students, but the price is high in relation to the length.

A. J. C. Wilson


This is said to be volume 9 of a series 'modern trends in physiological sciences', but there is little in it that is specifically physiological. The first four chapters deal with the physical aspects of image formation, phase contrast, interference microscopy, and reflected-light microscopy. The physical arguments are mostly qualitative, and crystallographers would welcome a more theoretical and mathematical approach. The remaining chapters deal with applications: measurements in the focusing plane, measurements of thickness, measurements of refractive index (including nearly a page on birefringence), measurement of thickness and slope by interference microscopy, infra-red and ultra-violet microscopy, microspectroscopy, and chemical applications (melting-point determination, with applications to equilibrium diagrams). In spite of the remark above about the level of mathematical treatment, the book forms a very readable introduction to the subject.

The author is Professor of Physics at the Sorbonne, and the book, presumably a translation, is printed in Poland. These considerations account for certain peculiarities, such as 'educed' instead of 'deduced' or 'derived', 'equates' instead of 'is equal to' and other infelicities. There is a four-page bibliography and a seven-page subject index.

A. J. C. Wilson