For the reader who is interested in hormone research, the minutes of these proceedings are a recommended purchase.

J. R. COOPER

THE INTELLIGENT MAN'S GUIDE TO SCIENCE. By Isaac Asimov. New York, Basic Books, Inc., 1960. 2 vols. 767 pp. $15.00.
The phrase “on historical principles” might well have been added to the titles of these volumes, for most sections are presented historically—much too historically in some cases. For instance, the section on mechanisms of evolution proceeds from Cuvier and Lamarck to Darwin, Wallace, and Huxley, and then concludes with the Scopes trial. If anyone wishes to know current concepts of evolutionary mechanisms, he won’t find them here.

Isaac Asimov is Associate Professor of Biochemistry at Boston University and has produced 767 pages of well-written text plus nearly a hundred pages of bibliography, credits for illustrations, and an index. The first volume discusses the physical and the second, the biological sciences. Within each volume the organization is not patterned on standard basic texts but is enriched with imagination. And Asimov does write well.

However, he has attempted to cover more material than 767 pages can contain. The publisher describes the book as “written for the layman and for the specialist as well.” Only occasionally will the specialist experience anything other than frustration in using these volumes. The work will be of interest to those who know little or nothing of science, but they will not always be introduced to current science.

FREDERICK G. KILGOUR

BASIC THEORY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS. By Robert Waelder. International University Press, 1960. 273 pp. $5.00.
This book is broad in scope and an important contribution to the growing efforts to clarify the scientific basis of psychoanalysis. It attempts to encompass the totality of scientific psychoanalysis and present it to a heterogeneous group of readers. Dr. Waelder lists “three goals: to combat widespread misunderstandings . . . ; to see psychoanalysis in its context in the history of our civilization; and to help discover the most promising avenues of advancement.” This approach makes the book especially useful for the young psychiatric resident very often viewing psychoanalysis only in its more restricted technical aspects. It should help him see the unfolding of the development of psychoanalysis as a young science and how it stands in relation to the more firmly established physical sciences. Dr. Waelder writes from a rich background of experience in the mainstream of psychoanalysis. He represents by his very example an effective reply to critics of the field who maintain that it is static and too reliant on early formulations developed by Freud.
If there is a difficulty in the book, it is in the very vastness of the project undertaken. The scientific underpinnings of psychoanalysis are developed, the basic theoretical concepts of psychoanalytic psychology are described in historical sequence, clinical syndromes are explained, theoretical and practical aspects of treatment are outlined. All this is done with skill and with a refreshing sense of timing and wit so rare in serious medical writings.

Though this book will find a varied audience among the intellectual non-medical public, it is this reviewer's opinion that it will be most meaningful to the young psychiatrist or physicians seriously interested in psychiatry. Dr. Waelder writes gracefully and makes his points easily but these points are often far-reaching and require careful consideration by an alert reader.

EDWIN C. WOOD

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