

Book Reviews

Soviet Men of Science. By John Turkevich. Published by D. Van Nostrand, Princeton, New Jersey. 441 pages. \$12.00.

This book is a compilation of biographical sketches of 400 academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. It was made possible by a National Science Foundation grant in order to make available to the working scientific community of the West up-to-date and authentic biographic material on the science elite of the Soviet Union. Each of the biographees had the opportunity to approve and correct his entry before publication, so every possible step has been taken by the authors to insure the integrity of the published tabulation.

This is a most useful reference book to the research scientist interested in Russian scientists because of the degree to which the Soviet Academy dominates Soviet science. The biographies include the organizational affiliations of each man and a short bibliography of his most important technical contribution. It is interesting to contrast the form of the entries in this tabulation with that of the more familiar *American Men of Science*. They are well organized in form, readable in typography and presentation, and filled with useful information about the scientific career and interests of the individual scientist. Each biography is written in paragraphed prose rather than in the cryptic highly abbreviated form to which we have become inured in the American Series. It would, of course, be impossible to extend the same complete treatment to the *American Men of Science* biographees, but one wonders if these books would not be more useful if the same selectivity were applied to entries and a more thorough job done on each entry - as in the Turkevich book.

It is gratifying to realize the degree to which personal interaction and scientific exchange have developed during the last decade between the West and the Soviet Union to make such a book at all useful or worthy of publication. The many international conferences, committees and exchange programs have served to bring us into direct and continuing contact with the group of Soviet scientists discussed in this book.

Professor Turkevich and his collaborators are

to be congratulated on their willingness to undertake the burdensome task of compiling the biographical sketches, and then translating them into readable and useful form. The authors' reward will be the extensive use of this compilation by the scientific community in order to make the "bridge of science" a more personal and better used by-way on the road to international understanding.

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About the Reviewer: Dr. Robert A. Charpie is General Manager - Development Department of the Union Carbide Corporation. He joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1950, was appointed an assistant research director in 1954, served as Deputy U. S. Delegate to the UN Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy, and was Scientific Secretary for the 1955 Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. He joined Union Carbide Corporation in 1961. He is a fellow of APS and of ANS.

Fast Neutron Physics, Part II: Experiments and Theory. Edited by J. B. Marion and J. L. Fowler. **Interscience Monographs and Texts in Physics and Astronomy, Volume IV.** Edited by R. E. Marshak. Interscience Publishers, (1963). 1308 pp. \$45.00.

It is now just a little more than twenty years that fast-neutron physics became a recognizable branch of nuclear physics, maturing early as a result of the exigencies of the weapons problems of the Manhattan District. Testifying to the vigor and ingenuity with which this field has been pursued is the second volume (Part II) of the monumental *Fast Neutron Physics* edited by Marion and Fowler, over a thousand pages of papers by many recognized experts. This volume covers a mixture of theory and experiment (but not much experimental technique, which was the major subject of Vol. I) and reports much experimental data with attempts at interpretation.