

Physics of simple liquids. Edited by H.N.V. TEMPERLEY, J. S. ROWLINSON & G. S. RUSHBROOKE. Pp x+713. Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing Company, 1968. Price Dfl. 108.

This book gives a complete survey of present knowledge about simple liquids both from the experimental and theoretical points of view. The liquids are 'simple' in the respect that attention is restricted to monatomic liquids and liquids whose molecules are approximately spherical (*e.g.* carbon tetrachloride).

There are sixteen chapters all written by different authors covering a wide range of topics including theories based on distribution functions, statistical mechanics and kinetic theory; studies of liquid models; critical phenomena; experimental work with ultrasonics, light scattering, X-ray and neutron diffraction; the study of liquid metals.

With so many contributors there is obviously a range of styles and quality of presentation. The overall quality is

high and the material interrelates well, which reflects great credit on the editors.

The emphasis of the book is on the theoretical side although this is the result of the nature of the subject. It is intended for readers with an existing interest in liquids and, despite a well-written introductory chapter, it would not be easy reading for a newcomer to the field. However a brief introduction through an elementary textbook (*e.g.* J. A. Pryde, *Theory of Liquids*, Hutchinson University Library) would be preparation enough.

This book is recommended reading to all who are interested in the liquid state.

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