

in the field of radioactive research must, of necessity, contain much which is valuable and interesting. Separate chapters are devoted to the radioactivity of uranium and thorium, radioactive minerals, the new radioactive substances, the radiations of the new radioactive substances, excited radioactivity and the nature and cause of radioactive phenomena. The author's own investigations are described in some detail and many of the more important results obtained by others are also included. The treatment of the subject of radioactivity is by no means exhaustive, but the book is valuable for reference and the subject is so gracefully presented that it cannot fail to interest the general reader. Like many other foreign books, this one unfortunately contains no index.

B. B. BOLTWOOD.

THE METRIC FALLACY. BY FREDERICK A. HALSEY, AND THE METRIC FAILURE IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, BY SAMUEL S. DALE. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. 1904. 251 pp.

This book is another illustration of the fact that there are two sides to every question, and the question of the adoption of the metric system in this country for ordinary transactions, even for the National government, is no exception to the rule. In this book, or rather in the two books bound in one, Messrs. Halsey and Dale have set forth many of the practical difficulties in the way of meeting the plans advocated by those interested in the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures, and what they offer seems well worthy of the careful consideration of these advocates. It is interesting to note that no mention is found in the books of protest from manufacturers of implements for weighing and measuring, though one may readily imagine that these captains of industry would, in their own interest, be slow to offer such protests, in spite of the difficulties they would incur to meet the great demand for new implements required by the proposed change, if it should be adopted.

While the scientific use of the metric system seems almost imperative, it would furthermore seem that what Messrs. Halsey and Dale have compiled and here presented should have the careful consideration of all who are interested in the change proposed.

McM.