

## *Recensio*

**B. Chu: Molecular Forces (based on the Baker lectures of P. J. W. Debye).** XII + 176 p., 16 × 23 cm. New York-London-Sydney: Interscience Publishers (a division of John Wiley and Sons) 1967. 80 sh.

In this book the contents are given of eight lectures delivered by Debye in 1965 at Cornell University. It opens with a foreword by Debye with his portrait as a frontispiece. In the first chapter the equation of state of Van der Waals is treated. In another short second chapter the subject is the Debye-Hückel theory of strong electrolytes. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 deal with the molecular forces between colloidal particles and between macroscopic objects. The last and by far the longest chapter (90 p.) is on the subject of the scattering of electromagnetic radiation and especially of light.

Debye has thus given a short survey of most of the subjects on which he has worked, often as one of the very first. One does not find any intricate mathematical or statistical discussions. However, Debye has tried to indicate the physical background with the help of simple reasoning and uncomplicated formulae. He rarely mentions his own name, but the more he quotes others.

The book is characteristic for the many-sided physicist Debye who earned the Nobel prize for chemistry. It is a pity that a short biography is lacking.

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