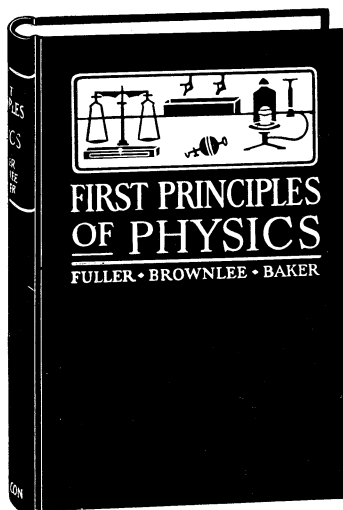


THE WORLD OF PHYSICS

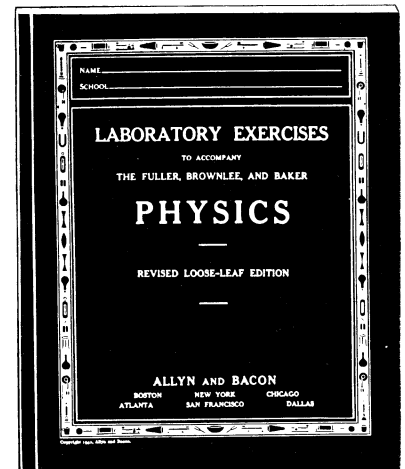
FROM THE EARLIEST RECORDS of man's activities we learn that he has constantly sought to utilize and control the forces of Nature and to simplify and classify them, the better to understand their operation. The control of these forces has brought him practical results of greatest importance; the study of them has brought him a freedom from superstition, a stirring of the imagination, and a training of the reasoning faculties.



In the field of applied Physics we see that our lives have been modified at every point. Industry and manufacture, transportation by air, land, and sea, communication by wire and by radio, our understanding of our own bodies by X-ray and microscope have all been established on a new and surer basis as the result of the patient research and logical deduction of the experimentalist in Physics. It would be less difficult to list separately this multitude of magnificent achievements than to discover one aspect of our lives that Physics has not altered.

While the ignorant man accepts without question these practical achievements, the intelligent man yields ever more readily to the adventure and romance of the patient search for truth. Inquiring minds turn outward to the boundaries of space and inward to the mysteries of atomic structure. In unfolding the plan of Nature men gain the satisfactions that come from a quickened imagination, from a dependable habit of thought, and from the discipline that checks reason against experiment at every step.

The ideal textbook in Physics simplifies this task of the teacher by presenting in clear easy language not only the facts but also the inspiration and logic by which general principles are derived from these facts. Such a book enables the pupil to teach himself by text, illustration, and application of facts to his environment, to test himself by simple fact questions at frequent intervals and by a wide range of thought-provoking exercises and objective tests.



The ideal textbook aids the successful teacher of Physics to do more than interest his pupils in the practical aspects of a noble science. It helps him to lead them to lay for themselves a foundation of respect, interest, and trust, in a body of knowledge that represents one of the highest achievements of their race.

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