

The Intelligent Man's Guide To Science

Isaac Asimov (Basic books, Inc., \$15.00)

Have you ever wished that you could have kept up-to-date with some of the subjects that interested you in your premedical science studies? Have you ever wondered where you could find authoritative, concise and clear accounts of modern scientific advances? Have you ever regretted that you no longer seem to have the background scientific knowledge to enable you to understand recent medical advances? Do you like reading in the History of Science?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" you will want to read and probably to own these two volumes. Here, packed into 850 pages, is a wonderful account of both the Physical and Biological Sciences made so comprehensible and so fascinating that it reads like an adventure story. Yet it is not in the usual sense "popular" science writing.

Volume One (Physical Science) begins with the universe, its size and origin, works down to our own earth, its physical makeup in gross and ultimately to its atomic structure with reference to the latest advances in Nuclear Sciences. Volume Two (Biological Sciences) reverses the order by beginning with the Molecular Structure of organic matter and then works up through proteins, the cell and micro-organisms and ultimately to our own species and how and why we function as thinking animals.

The author comes about as near to being the "Universal" scientist as is possible today. He is, in fact, a first-rate scientist (Associate Professor of Biochemistry at Boston University School of Medicine) but he is also an engaging and lucid writer. Most scientists are atrocious writers which is probably why they take refuge in Technical Jargon. Asimov, however, resorts neither to jargon nor to over-simplification, and the result is the most significant book in this field that I am aware of. I can recommend it very highly indeed. (L. B. Macpherson)

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