

their good nature than as having any great scientific value from the standpoint of our problem.

EDWIN G. DEXTER.

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*MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION.*

THE following have completed their membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science during the month of July :

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

RECENT BOOKS ON PHYSICS.

Natural Philosophy for General Readers and Young People. Translated from Ganot's 'Cours élémentaire de physique,' by E. ATKINSON. Ninth edition, revised by A. W. REINHOLD. Longmans, Green & Co. 1900. Pp. 752.

Elements of Physics. By C. HANFORD HENDERSON and JOHN F. WOODHULL. D. Appleton & Co. 1900. Pp. 388.

A Brief Course in General Physics. By GEORGE A. HOADLEY. American Book Company. 1900. Pp. 463.

One Thousand Problems in Physics. By WILLIAM H. SNYDER and IRVING O. PALMER. Ginn & Co. 1900. Pp. 142.

A Manual of Laboratory Physics. By H. M. TORY and F. H. FITCHER. John Wiley & Sons. 1901. Pp. 288.

Advanced Exercises in Practical Physics. By ARTHUR SCHUSTER and CHARLES H. LEES. England, Cambridge University Press; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1901. Pp. 368.

It was in 1863 that Dr. Atkinson first put before English readers his excellent translation of Ganot's 'Éléments de Physique,' a book which quickly won favor by its good arrangement and lucidity. In the first edition he graciously apologized for the use of the metric system. It has passed through fifteen or more editions since its introduction. A demand soon arose for the more elementary course by the same French author, as a text-book for the middle and upper classes of schools preparatory to college. The popularity of this is manifested by the appearance now of its ninth edition, a considerable part of which had been prepared for the press before the death of Dr. Atkinson. The present volume has all the excellences of its predecessors, the illustrations being abundant, and some of them possibly a trifle too expensive. Colored lithographs of metallic spectra and of Geissler tube discharges were formerly fashionable, but in a general treatise to-day they seem almost out of date. For the general reader it would be hard to find a more pleasant and satisfactory book than this volume. For American school purposes, however, it is too diffuse; and it seems adapted only for recitatorial purposes where oral answers are given to questions relating to descriptive details and general principles. Physics is nothing if not a quantitative science. This idea is best instilled into the elementary student, even though his mathematical attainments be not sufficient to warrant the use of complex problems.

The present volume illustrates the difficulty of maintaining a text-book up to date by slight modifications and additions applied in succession to a long series of new editions. As years pass on, the necessity for omissions becomes as