
Steven Weinberg, in his advice to students at the start of their scientific careers (Nature, 2003, 426, 389) says ‘Finally, learn something about the history of science, or at a minimum the history of your own branch of science...’ More importantly, the history of science can make your work seem more worthwhile to you...you can get great satisfaction by recognizing that your work is a part of history. I think that the advice holds true for working scientists as well as school kids aspiring to go into a career in science. Several internet sites, notably the one by APS, provide an illustrated tour of the history of physics. Of course, not all the students in India have high-speed internet access and, with the risk of sounding a bit old-fashioned, internet browsing does not even come close to the sheer pleasure of stretching out on a couch and reading a book. For children, and some enlightened adults, comic books are fun, captivating and one can never have enough of them. Thus, it is great that the author has told the story of physics in a comic book format. The narration is, to a enough of them. Thus, it is great that the author has told the story of physics in a comic book format. The narration is, to a

Given that this book is into a second edition, I am amazed at the number of typographical errors. Some are rather innocuous, but there are certain errors that should have been weeded out in advance. For example, Boltzmann has been mentioned as K. L. Boltzman and S. Boltzmann. Similarly, Clausius is Classius, A. J. W. Sommerfeld is M. Sommerfeld, R. H. Fowler has become R. C. Fowler – minor errors surely, but they do stand out in a book dealing with the history of physics. As in the details on Rutherford’s experimental set-up, the labelling of the scintillating screen $S$ is missing. More seriously, the binomial expansion of $(a + b)^n$ has a term $4ab$ and the Bohr’s quantization lists the possible quantum number values of $n = 1/2, -3$. Along the same lines, an expression for the entropy (reversible or not) on the backboard says $S = |dQ|/T$. Newton’s gravitation force goes like $G^2$. Young’s destructive interference illustration is wrong, the periodic table

(Also shown on the cover of the book) has sodium (Na) in place of neon (Ne), and seemingly bosons can have a spin of $\pi$! Then there is a sketch which labels Newton’s magnum opus as Principia Mathematica. There is a serious need for proper proof-reading of this book.

Surprisingly, C.-S. Wu (parity violation), Yang-Lee, Kammerligh-Onnes, Bethe, Chandrashekhar, Glashow (although Salam and Weinberg, with whom he shared the Nobel, are shown), Born, Debye, Landau and many other stars of physics do not find a place in this book (except for one frame about the A-bomb project). Cosmology (Hubble, Friedman, Gamow, ... ) and condensed matter (Brillouin, Drude, Bloch, Kohn, ...) are almost absent, but I hope the next edition will consider adding a few more pages to do justice. The book seems to credit Boltzmann with the expression for pressure as obtained by kinetic theory of gases. This cannot be right since Ber- noulli and Maxwell had already worked it out. Moreover, in 1845 Waterston (an unsung hero, see S. G. Brush’s three volumes on kinetic theory of gases) had already obtained this expression during his stay in India as an officer of the East India Company! At the same time the book does not do justice to the development of classical mechanics from Poincaré onwards. One page on nonlinearity, chaos (Lorenz, May, ...) and turbulence (Reynolds, Prandtl, ...) would have added tremendously to the content and illustrated the diversity of the subject. I hope the next edition will take this and the aforementioned comments into account.

In the very end of the book is a remark which borders on being flippant – the most fashionable pastime nowadays is based on a formalism called ‘superstrings’. No, I am not a string theorist, but such remarks do not have any place in a book meant for high-school students with their impressionable minds. However, I am impressed with the amount of effort that has gone into the making of this book and appreciate the thought behind creating the book. With some more effort this book will get better and perhaps many children will pick up a copy along with the usual Asterix and Tintin classics!

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