
Book Review

Learning Science (Parts 1 to 4)
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Bangalore 560 064. Pp.84, 148, 167, 119.

SCIENCE HAS become an integral part of our lives. Applications of science have provided us many benefits and ensured a better quality of life. The world today uses a language which has a lot of science in it. Even unknowingly we use many words and phrases derived from science. It is, therefore, important to learn the language of science. Not only children but also adults have to know the rudiments of science so that they may be able to apply the lessons learnt from science in daily life. The book under review has been written keeping this very objective in mind.

The book is in four parts. Each part has a different title and an independent cover. Part 1 entitled 'Universe, Solar system, Earth' explores our universe, the solar system and earth. Various aspects have been covered and concepts introduced in a simple and interest-arousing manner. However, on page 55, about gravitational force, the authors write: "The strength of the force depends upon the weight of the object – the heavier the object, the stronger is the force." There is a clear-cut lacunae in this statement which should be taken care of in the future edition.

Part 2 is entitled 'The world of physics and energy: Learning physical principles'. Indeed, physics has a very important role to play in our daily lives. Our day begins with physics. We use heat, hear sounds and use energy. We switch on the fan, see TV and preserve food in a fridge, use a computer or travel to work. Our day ends with physics when we turn off the TV, shut down the computer, switch off the light and go to bed. This part includes various aspects, from levers to solar and fuel cells. Even information about pacemaker and electrocardiograph has been included. However, in the chapter on light, some elementary information about lasers should have been included.

Part 3 is entitled 'The world of chemistry: of molecules and materials, Air around us, All about water.' This part comprises thirteen chapters in all. The titles of some of the chapters are 'Why chemistry?'; 'Water: the cradle of life on earth'; 'Carbon: the black rock that burns'; 'Man and metals'; 'Man-made materials'; 'Air around us'; and 'All about water'. In the chapter on Air, one also finds information about weather and weather forecasting. One only wonders whether the two chapters on Water could have been combined into a single one.

Part 4 is entitled 'Biology and Life' and comprises eight chapters in all. The chapters are entitled 'What is Biology?', 'Evolution of life on earth', 'The amazing plant kingdom', 'Origin of the animal kingdom', 'Biology and life processes', 'Same life processes but different methods', 'Energy sensors', and 'The invisible world of microbes'.

All the four parts of the book have been nicely produced on glossy paper with lots of coloured, interesting and eye-catching plates and illustrations. Certainly, the book will be useful to school children as supplementary reading material. It will also be useful to adults who want to learn science and

partake in the excitement of this experience.

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