

BOOK REVIEWS

Ecophysics. The Application of Physics to Ecology. By James Paul Wesley. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. 1974. 340 pp.

The publishers claim that this is the first book to be published in its field. Ecophysics is described as the study of ecology where physics is used as an important tool. The book is written primarily for physicists and mathematicians interested in theoretical ecology. It deals in some detail with thermodynamics, and includes an ecophysical definition of life. When I reached the section which states that machines will inevitably take over our world and make life as we now know it extinct, I began to wonder whether this book should be taken seriously. The author is a physicist, and his book illustrates the axiom that the 'cobbler should keep to his last.'

K.M.

Effects of Agricultural Production on Nitrates in Food and Water with Particular Reference to Isotope Studies. Proceedings and Report of a Panel of Experts, Vienna, 4-8 June 1973, organised by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna. 1974. 158 pp. Price: US \$8.00.

Environmental Surveillance Around Nuclear Installations. Proceedings of a Symposium, Warsaw, 5-9 November 1973. 2 Volumes. 470 and 456 pp. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna. 1974. Price: US \$23.00 each.

The International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna has issued these important volumes.