

## Books Of Science

Knowledge of science must be acquired from the very childhood. The foundation of such knowledge has therefore to be laid at school. Hence the need for a well-thought-out curriculum and well-produced books on science for school students. Mere recognition of the importance of learning science or even introduction of science as a school subject is not enough. A look at the state of science education at the school level is enough to convince one that a solid foundation has yet to be built. The lack of necessary environment in the class-room and the lack of proper books are quite glaring. In most of the schools practically no experiments are carried out and the books seem to have been written for another society—for a society where ideal conditions exist in the class-room and outside of it.

A guardian has recently written a letter in a local newspaper wherein he has rightly pointed out the faulty approach in the books of science produced by the text-book authority for classes VI, VII and VIII—faulty in the context of our society where school education leaves much to be desired. These books pose questions but do not answer them, with the expectation that students themselves would find the answers through experiment. This certainly is too much to be expected. We say this because of the open secret that schools—barring a few honourable exceptions—have no facility for experiments. And, of course, most schools do not have resources in terms of teachers, laboratory equipment and so on to teach science principally through experiment.

We fail to understand how a child will learn science if (i) books do not teach them, (ii) experiments are not conducted, (iii) help-books stand banned and (iv) class-room teaching leaves much to be expected and (v) guardians cannot afford to engage private teachers.

These books call for immediate recasting to suit them to the existing social condition—to say the least. Books of science or for that matter on any subject shall have to be such as will enable the students to learn the subject by reading them. Experiments are necessary to supplement the theoretical instructions given in a class.