BOOK REVIEW


This is a modern popular book about investigations of the Sun. By means of excellent selection of best scientific photographs, schematic diagrams and simple explanations the author succeeded in showing what the present-day solar physics is: (1) How big is the effort in constructing sophisticated ground-based and space instruments in order to achieve any further progress in solar observations. (2) How complicated is the physical interpretation of the observational data. (3) How many important questions remain unsolved or only tentatively explained.

In particular, it is clearly seen in the book how complicated is the solar activity, the fascinating interplay of varying magnetic fields with the outer layers of the Sun. It is also worthwhile to stress that this is the first popular book, which reflects the actual position of the solar physics: between the Earth (solar-terrestrial relationships) and stars (stellar activity). Much attention is paid to both these aspects and their discussion emphasizes even more the wealth of forms and processes occuring in the interaction of the magnetic fields and plasma.

Thus the book shows that the modern solar physics is difficult, but fascinating and important for other disciplines. The book is addressed mainly to advanced amateur astronomers, but it should be recommended also to beginners in professional solar physics (especially the paragraphs discussing the interpretation of recent observations) to give them a broad and authoritative view of their subject.

Congratulations to Dr Noyes for this modern and successful book!

Astronomical Institute, 
Wrocław University  

J. Jakimiec