of high mass stars is discussed separately from that of low mass stars. The last part presents various aspects of the physics of early stellar evolution as, for instance, the molecular outflows, the physics of the winds from young stellar objects, the Herbig–Haro objects, and the T Tauri stars. As announced in the preface, the aim of this book is to provide a broad and systematic overview of the physics of star formation as well as a rigorous introduction to this interdisciplinary subject. It constitutes an excellent and complete base for all those who desire to obtain a very good background in this area of research.

Geneva Observatory at Sauverny

G. Meynet


This slender volume is aimed at amateur astronomers proposing to study the Sun for the first time. Fully one-third of it is given over to an illustrated summary of highlights in the history and scientific foundations of observational solar science. This daunting task is treated with enthusiasm, but its brevity cannot satisfy the curious as much as the more comprehensive accounts cited frequently by the author. The remaining two-thirds of the book get down to practical matters – choosing optical equipment, making and reporting observations of solar phenomena, and building electronic devices to detect terrestrial responses to solar activity. Instructions are detailed, well-illustrated, and easy to follow with frequent stress on precautions for safe viewing. Solar scientists will be interested in the discussion about practical difficulties of imposing a degree of uniformity on measurements of the Wolf Sunspot Number. The design of the VLF receiver for detecting Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances produced by solar flares should spark a welcome revival of interest in a technique publicized in radio amateur circles over 30 years ago.

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V. Gaizauskas


This volume is the proceedings of a conference of the same title held in Heidelberg in June 1990. Quick publication, in a very attractive format, was achieved by the increas-