

NEW BOOKS.

The Science of Musical Sounds. By DAYTON CLARENCE MILLER. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1916. Pp. viii + 286.

This volume presents the substance of a course of Lowell Institute lectures delivered in 1914 before audiences who had certainly a great privilege in hearing a subject of universal interest expounded in so delightful a manner by the most competent expert in it.

A popular course of scientific lectures, designed for a general and non-technical public, may well be somewhat sketchy and incomplete; but the volume before us shows, once more, that this is by no means inevitable. In reality, we have a number of instances of such lecture courses, published later in book form, which while thoroughly popular in the best sense excite only admiration in the hearer or reader who is well trained in scientific matters and already somewhat familiar with the particular subject in hand. Upon thinking over the list of such books and the great names of the men who have produced them, we may well be proud that a member of the American Physical Society has made a notable addition to the list.

One of the striking facts about the book, and one which speaks for itself, is that while a large part of it relates to Professor Miller's own investigations, the whole is not thereby thrown at all out of balance. And this happy result is not due merely to artistic presentation but to the interest and importance of the author's work.

A detailed review seems quite unnecessary, and any further recommendation whether to the professional physicist or to the general reader interested in music, would be superfluous.

E. B.