



“Physics in Canada”
Book Review

“La Physique au Canada”
Critique de livre

“*An Introduction to Practical Laboratory Optics*”, by J.F. James, Cambridge University Press, 2014, pp: 196 ISBN: 9781107687936.price: 91.95.

The title of the book conjured up images of having practical labs laid out that could be used in the classroom. That however, is not what this book is about. The book describes several optical devices and techniques, and is interesting to read. The main text of the book has very few equations, and describes with figures different types of telescopes, binoculars, eyepieces, cameras, charge coupled devices, spectrophotometers, interferometers and microscopes. Most of the descriptions are fairly brief, but should be interesting to someone who has not used a lot of optical equipment. The strength of the book is in its many nice line drawing figures of how the devices work. Equations for Gaussian optics, optical aberrations, and Fourier optics are only presented in appendixes. The equations are presented without any accompanying derivation, and there are no examples provided of their use. The book would probably be most useful to someone who has already taken some optics, and would provide an additional reference describing the many possible devices that one might come across.

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