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Fischer-Tropsch) is generally regarded as the most immediately promising. The timely book reviews the present status of the synthetic process, dealing with the production of synthesis gas from natural gas and coal, both on the surface and underground; the catalysts used; characteristics of the products and byproducts of the process, and the basic economics. Appendices list patents, government reports and recent periodical references to the synthetic process.

While the book contains matter that is of the concern of chemical engineers and petroleum technologists, the text is handled so the nonspecialist follows it with little trouble. For this reason, power engineers will find it an up-to-date and comprehensive survey of developments in this part of the synthetic fuels field.

ELECTRIC POWER AND GOVERNMENT POLICY
(1948) By the Research Staff and the
Power Committee, The Twentieth Century
Fund. 860 pp, 6x9, illust, tables, cloth.
\$5. The Twentieth Century Fund, 330
42nd St, New York 18, N. Y.

Based on a comprehensive survey of the relations between government and the electric power industry, this report gives the public an unbiased picture of how these relations have worked out—rate regulations, control of security issues and direct government ownership and operation—and some constructive thoughts on a rational power policy in the public interest.

Such topics are covered as regulation of price and service, financial organization of private systems, market areas and electric systems; public-utility, federal and private systems; and the electric power sources of the nation. Questions of major importance, both publicly and privately, are studied in detail in the analyses of TVA and other federal projects also included.

In addition to the book's factual findings the final chapter includes recommendations of a representative Power Committee consisting of leaders with background in both privately and publicly owned systems, as well as men experienced in government regulation and law making.

The engineer interested in the part played by power in our national economy will find this study a mine of factual information and the policy recommendations a stimulus to thought.

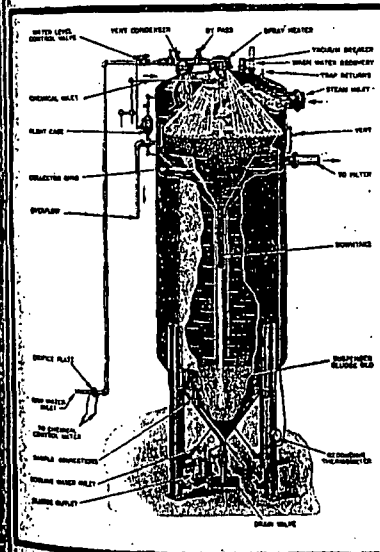
RADIANT HEATING. By Richard Woods, Shoemaker, consulting engineer. 306 E. 6x9, many illust. cloth. \$4. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Practical applications of radiant heating to all types of buildings in various climatic conditions. Data and methods of designing one- and 2-story residential and commercial installations are detailed.

Specific locations of panels in residential and commercial buildings make up separate chapters. Heart of the system, heating plant, forms a chapter that is of the best reviews on present-day residential and commercial furnaces fitted this service.

Other chapters discuss control, design and installation of radiant-heating systems. Radiant cooling constitutes still another chapter.

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