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Book Review (*Secrets of the Nucleus*, by Joseph S. Levinger)

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BOOK REVIEW

Atomic physics reaches the high school level with *Secrets of the Nucleus*, a Vistas of Science book by Joseph S. Levinger. Dr. Levinger, Professor of Physics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, taps his years of teaching experience to communicate the excitement of nuclear research, often through simple experiments and calculations that are well within the capability of science students in today's high schools.

With rare skill, Dr. Levinger succeeds in reducing the complex theories of nuclear physics to simple, graphic terms. He explains clearly such concepts as the conversion of nuclear energy to other forms and how this energy is released and measured. He describes experimental methods of obtaining quantitative information about nuclei, discusses methods for estimating the rate at which different nuclear reactions occur, and deals with such problems as how nuclear theory and experiments

are used to explain the force between a neutron and a proton.

Students also learn by doing from the sections of intriguing classroom-tested experiments provided by co-author George Carr, Assistant Professor of Physics and Physical Science at Lowell State College. The experiments are safe, surprisingly simple activities which illustrate many nuclear properties.

Secrets of the Nucleus was produced by the National Science Teachers Association, under contract with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and was published by Scholastic Book Services. Copies may be obtained from the NSTA, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 or from Scholastic Book Services, 904 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632. Price per copy 50 cents, with quantity discounts available from Scholastic Book Services of 10 per cent on orders of \$10 or more and 20 per cent on orders of \$50 or more.