

Source Books in the Modern Physics

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Recently interests in the history of science seems to be spreading in our country among scientists and students. Reflecting this tendency, classics in the modern physics in Japanese translation are being published or planned to be published. For example, a new translation of E. Mach's *Science of Mechanics*, which was once translated nearly forty years ago, has been published in 1969. But the most remarkable success is attained by, it seems, the *Buturigaku Koten Ronbun Sôsyô* (Classical Papers in Physics) which has been planned and edited by the Group for History of Physics.

The Group for History of Physics is a body of those who are studying or interested in the history of physics. Since 1958 they have been publishing more or less regularly a mimeographed circular *Buturigakusi Kenkyu* (studies in the history of physics) which is opened for articles, preliminary reports, memoranda, book reviews, abstracts, guide to literatures and so on. It was about four years ago that a plan was proposed to translate selected classical papers which either played a decisive rôle or propounded ingenious ideas in the development of modern physics. At first it was planned to publish the translated papers in successive numbers of *Buturigakusi Kenkyu*. But after that since the Tokai University Press, knowing this project, proposed to undertake its publication, the project was changed and a new plan was adopted to publish them in a form of series of books under the above mentioned title *Buturigaku Koten Ronbun Sôsyô*. The selection of papers was carefully considered and revised several times. The first volume was finally published in February 1969 and, as well as the succeeding volumes, has been, to a surprise and a delight of

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