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## SHORT COMMUNICATION

*Acta Cryst.* (1995). B51, 892

**Experimental and theoretical determination of electronic properties in L-dopa. Erratum.** By S. T. HOWARD, M. B. HURSTHOUSE and C. W. LEHMANN, *School of Chemistry and Applied Chemistry, University of Wales College of Cardiff, Cardiff CF1 3TB, Wales*, and E. A. POYNER, *Pharmaceutical Science Institute, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET, England*

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### Abstract

The reference number in the deposit footnote on p. 330 [Howard, Hursthouse, Lehmann & Poyner (1995). *Acta Cryst.* B51, 328–337] was incorrectly quoted as SE0154. The correct reference number is CR0467.

All relevant information is given in the *Abstract*.

## Book Reviews

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (R. F. Bryan, Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia, McCormick Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901, USA). As far as practicable, books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

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**Highlights of chemistry as mirrored in Helvetica Chimica Acta.** Edited by M. V. KISAKUREK and E. HEILBRONNER. Pp. v + 985. Basel: Verlag Helvetica Chimica Acta and Weinheim: VCH Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, 1994. Price DM 248. ISBN 1-906390-08-X.

In the highly charged atmosphere of nationalism accompanying the first world war, chemists in neutral Switzerland faced a problem. Accustomed to publishing their work in the chemical journals of their larger neighbors, chemists who, before the war would have made their choice of journal solely on the basis of linguistic convenience or the desire to reach as wide an audience as possible through the use of the German language, the *lingua franca* of the chemical world of the day, hesitated, during wartime, to make choices that might be interpreted as gestures of moral or even material support for one or other of the combatant nations. And, of course, no matter which journal was chosen, the potential audience was greatly reduced. The Swiss Chemical Society, with some help from its friends in industry, resolved this issue by deciding to publish its own journal, neatly finessing the question of language parity by giving it the latinized title *Helvetica Chimica Acta*. To further emphasize Swiss neutrality, only contributions from Swiss laboratories were initially accepted. The story of the founding of the journal and its subsequent editorial history are entertain-

ingly and informatively described by Edgar Heilbronner and Volkan Kisakürek in their introduction to this delightful volume, issued to commemorate *Helvetica's* 75th anniversary.

The main body of the book is a series of charmingly subjective and necessarily idiosyncratic historical reviews of selected areas of chemistry as they have developed in articles in the journal over the first 75 years of its existence. Here are: Venanzi on coordination chemistry; Heimgartner and Hansen on structure and mechanisms in organic chemistry and, later, on organic photochemistry; Guggisberg and Hesse on alkaloid research; Eugster on carotinoid chemistry; Ohloff on flavor and perfume chemistry (a particularly Swiss strength occupying the attention of most of the giants); Zollinger on color chemistry; Tamm on carbohydrates, plant and microbial substances; Kalvoda on steroids; chemists from Hoffmann–La Roche on vitamins; Woggon on triterpenes; Günthard and Heilbronner on physical chemistry; Bürgi and Dunitz on structural chemistry. A rich feast, indeed!

Vladimir Prelog, in his introductory preface, declines the invidious task of identifying individual landmark contributions, leaving that choice to the reader. Your reviewer is no more anxious than he to play that game. Like Professor Prelog, I simply observe that many major contributions are highlighted, as are many meritorious lesser ones. To be mentioned at all in a work of this kind always produces a warm feeling (and, presumably, not to be mentioned produces a converse one!). I was, therefore, pleased to find my own modest contribution to