

decision to bring the world of "real polymer science" to mere mortal biochemists. They bridge the gap between "know-how" and "know-why" in a very pleasant way.

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*Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Cyclodextrins*, edited by J. SZEJTLI, D. Reidel Publishing Co., Dordrecht, Holland, 1982, xiii + 531 pages + Author and Subject Indexes, \$84.50, Dfl. 195.00.

This work is a collection of fifty-two papers and eleven abstracts reporting the work presented at the First International Symposium on Cyclodextrins held in Budapest, Hungary, in the Fall of 1981. As is common with such collections, it is a direct reproduction of the authors' typewritten reports, and, as such, possesses the drawbacks arising from the lack of control over style and typographical errors, and from the lack of uniformity. Moreover, although all of the papers are in English, it is clear from the reading that, in many cases, this is not the authors' native tongue. However, the editor and the authors are to be commended for making the proceedings of the conference available to the many who could not attend. (Incidentally, the preferred name for a cyclodextrin is now cyclomaltopolyose, but, the former name being rather well entrenched, this reviewer will retain its use in this review.)

Since there are so many articles, the majority are necessarily brief. This brevity, and the fact that there is such a wide range of topics covered, ranging from animal studies to physical properties, makes it impossible for a single reviewer to assess the scientific merit of all that is reported. In approaching this work, one should not expect to find complete and polished research papers, but rather, sketchy outlines of work in progress. Undoubtedly, this was the intention of the authors and is the principal merit of a volume like this. It gives an up-to-date (at the time of the conference) account of work under way in the laboratories of the participants. This particular volume also makes readily available some details about work which has been published in journals and reports not readily accessible.

A good subtitle for the work would be "Cyclodextrins, Their Place in Commerce". The vast majority of the articles represent reports of studies of useful applications, or studies of properties and behavior, of cyclodextrins in the context of practical applications. The utility of cyclodextrins flows, of course, from their ability to form inclusion complexes with a variety of molecules in the solid state and in solution. Subjects discussed range from the toxicity and metabolism of cyclodextrins, through the methods of their production industrially, the stability of their

complexes with drugs, flavors, perfumes, and pesticides, and their effect on the bioavailability of drugs, through to cyclodextrin derivatives as solubilizing agents. In fact, thirteen articles appear in a section entitled "Cyclodextrins in Pharmaceuticals", and another nine in a section called "Applications of Cyclodextrins in Foods, Agriculture and other Industries". The volume also reflects the interests of CHINOIN Pharmaceutical-Chemical Works, as the authors of about 50 percent of the articles are associated with that company.

The principal value of this book is in its making available the results of the conference and the current thought on cyclodextrins from the viewpoint of practical applications. Anyone with interest in cyclodextrin chemistry should have a copy of this volume available, if only to become acquainted with the commercial potential of these carbohydrates. Because it represents only a narrow area of cyclodextrin chemistry, it is not a useful introduction to these interesting compounds. However, whatever the shortcomings of a work such as this, it is hoped that a similar volume will appear after the second conference on cyclodextrins is held, later this year, in Japan.

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