

**Gas Chromatography. A Practical Course.** By Gerhard Schomburg, VCH, Weinheim, 1990. xiv + 320 pp. ISBN 3-527-27879. Price: £30.50.

There have been many texts describing the principles and applications of gas chromatography (GC). This book aims to introduce a new approach by describing sufficient principles and detail to allow the beginner to apply the technique without overwhelming him with detail. The author also includes chapters aimed at providing interest for the more experienced user.

The first 6 chapters, covering 122 pages, give a clear description of the fundamental principles of GC analysis. Chapter 8 which discusses sources of analytical error will also be helpful to the beginner. Causes of poor peak shape are discussed well, but the author does not emphasise the importance of setting integration parameters correctly and this must surely be the main source of error in GC analysis encountered by the beginner.

Subsequent chapters include aspects of GC relevant to more experienced chromatographers including multidimensional GC, supercritical fluid chromatography, and coupling of liquid chromatography to GC. These chapters are rather sketchy and can only be considered as an outline of the techniques. More detailed texts must be considered before the techniques can be applied.

Chapter 11 includes 40 chromatograms. The isothermal and temperature-programmed analysis of a series of *n*-alkanes, and the chromatograms of test-mixtures for the characterisation of the surface adsorptivity of capillary columns are instructive, but the other chromatograms do not seem to be very helpful to readers in general.

Key equations and a glossary of terms are given in chapter 12, and the book is completed by a list of symbols and the index.

This book will be useful for beginners who wish to learn about the basic of GC, but the author is less successful in extending the appeal of the text to experienced chromatographers.

**M. H. Gordon**

**Handbook of Industrial Drying.** Edited by A. S. Mujumdar, Marcel Dekker Inc., New York, 1987. xii + 948 pp. ISBN 0-8247-7606-2. Price: US\$180.00.

This book is divided into four major sections: fundamental aspects, description of various dryer types, drying in various industrial sectors and miscellaneous topics in industrial drying. Inevitably there is some overlap and duplication of material arising from this approach.

There are twenty-nine individual contributions from experts from all parts of the world. There are two appendices, one relating to enthalpy