

BOOK REVIEW

Chemistry and Technology of Water-Soluble Polymers. Edited by C. A. Finch. Plenum Press - New York and London 1983 - pp. 358 - U.S.A. D. 55

The appearance of this book represents a happy event for the help that it provides to both industrial and academic people working on water soluble polymers and related topics. The editor was successful in his attempt to reduce the wide gap between empirical knowledge and available theoretical background. The book contains nineteen chapters dealing with water soluble polymers of industrial importance; polyvinyl-alcohol is the most extensively described. Semi-synthetic polymers and hydrogels, both synthetic and natural, have been also taken into account quite extensively. Natural polymers were not considered. The book covers many aspects for the aforementioned

polymers: polymerization methods, chemical modifications, cross-linking reactions, fractionation, gelation, solution properties, dispersion stabilization and flocculation, biomedical and pharmaceutical applications, applications in oil-well drilling and oil recovery, etc. The theoretical considerations, notably thermodynamics of polymers in solution, are treated exhaustively and at a very high level, so that this book can be considered as an advanced text-book on water soluble polymers for macromolecular chemists. Moreover, the book provides an invaluable help also to those chemists involved in some topics of Biochemistry, such as enzyme-polymer coupling or immobilization of biocatalyst, where a good knowledge of chemistry of water soluble polymers and their insoluble derivative is required.

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