their industrial application." The book consists of nineteen chapters—five on glass fibers, three on blown and leached fibers, five on asbestos, five on wire and metallized fibers, and one on inorganic fiber paper. While published in the United States, the book was apparently written in the U. K., as the English spellings of words, i.e., fibre and colour, are used. The book is heavily illustrated with commercial art.

Inorganic Fibres is not a text or reference book, as one can judge from the following paragraph taken from the chapter (page 85) on "Glass Reinforced Plastics," which would have particular interest to readers of the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science:*

"Household Equipment. In this field plastics are well established. Buttons, combs, toothbrushes, and electric light switches and fittings have been used for many years in every home. Today, the glass-fibre-reinforced industry has reached a stage when it can look forward confidently to a rapidly expanding market for its many varied products. It is practically impossible to enumerate each item in which glass-reinforced plastics are used since additions to the long list are made practically everyday. Glass-reinforced bath tubs are yet another example of these new products which have great potentialities (See Figure 32)." (There is a photograph of a pretty girl *holding* a bath tub.) "Already established in house trailers and caravans, these are entering into competition with the standard enamelled steel or cast-iron bath. A 54-in. plastic bath weighs only 19 lb. Other advantages favouring its sales are prices that are 10 to 20 per cent less than those for conventional types, quick warm up of the tub, attractive appearance, resistance to chipping and easy cleaning with a damp cloth."

A watchful editor should have caught this with an easy movement of his blue pencil.

Where is the comprehensive work of the author? Unfortunately in the case of his chapter with the inviting title, "Asbestos in the Electrical Industry," he has written only 6 pages, one of which consists of a bibliography of twenty patent references and three others not mentioned in the text but suggested for further study. How does he handle his twenty patent references in such a short space, considering that he also has three photographs? Here it is, in one sentence (page 210):

"Great Progress has already been made in the selection and treatment of asbestos for electrical applications[1-20] and today asbestos impregnated with modern insulating resins will withstand the most arduous conditions encountered in electrical engineering practice."

This smacks sorely of the Sunday Supplement.

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Industrial Fatty Acids and Their Applications.

E. Scott Pattison, Ed. Reinhold, New York, 1959. 230 pp. $7.00.

This little book consists of sixteen chapters, each written by a representative of a fatty acid producer or user, equipment manufacturer, or research organization. As often happens with such compilations, some discussions are excellent and others leave much to be desired. As the title implies, the subject matter covers the uses of commercial fatty acids. The fact that such products are impure mixtures is perhaps responsible for the rather abbreviated and general discussions of fatty acid chemistry. Chapter 6 on the "General Chemical Reactions" is a well organized summary of typical reactions which fatty acids can undergo. The sole references at the end of this chapter to five other texts is an indication of the cursory treatment, however. Other chapters on vinyl esters and "Surface-Active Derivatives" have excellent bibliographies, including selected literature references through 1957. Pages 163 through 175 seem unnecessarily repetitive of the more extensive discussion of surface-active derivatives found in the preceding chapter. Chapter 10 is particularly inadequate in its sketchy coverage of applications in the rubber industry considering the statistics on page 2 which show an average consumption in this field of 10% of total production. The statement on page 9 that linseed, castor, corn, and fish oil fatty acids are not "substantial articles of commerce" seems questionable when apparently 22 million pounds were produced in 1957. Several fatty acid producers make available excellent charts showing the composition of a wide variety of commercial products; a much better selection could have been made than the one reproduced on page 6. While illustrations always make a book more attractive, the caption underneath the photograph on page 39 is uninstructive if not downright puzzling. Statements on page 96 to the effect that alkyd production using direct esterification of fatty acids rather than alcoholysis of oils is "simpler and shorter," "kettle capacity is increased," is less "variable" and not "subject to seasonal and geographical variation" are highly questionable if not actually incorrect. There is no discussion of utilization of fatty acids in wax technology, no mention of emulsification by *in situ* soap formation, and no appreciation of the role of fatty acids in pigment wetting. The index is inadequate.

This book is of limited value as a technical reference work but it does provide a quick, easily read perspective of the fatty acid industry.

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