

could be made. Owing to the presence of crosslinks the degree of x-ray crystallinity in the dry state is extremely low ($\approx 19\%$). The swelling in NaOH solutions is enormously enhanced (3-6 \times) above the swelling in alkali of normally regenerated cellulose (through the viscose process). The reason for these observations is clear: our samples, especially in the swollen state, are essentially amorphous networks because of the presence of crosslinks that impede crystallization. The increased swelling is of interest because it demonstrates very markedly that crosslinking in itself does not necessarily reduce the swelling, as is often assumed, or desired from a technological point of view. The state at which crosslinks are introduced (e.g., before or after a coagulation step in spinning) plays a decisive role

in determining the swelling, as is also brought out clearly by our experiments with cellulose acetate networks and the three-parameter rubbery-network theory.

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END OF SYMPOSIUM

POLYMER NEWS

Europlastique 62

European Plastics and Rubber Conference

The first European Plastics and Rubber Conference will be held in Paris from May 18 to May 29, 1961, under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

The Conference will be organized by the Industrial Chemistry Society and will include sessions exclusively devoted to reinforced plastics, research, manufacture, transformation, application, and technical economics. In addition to these there will be other sessions consecrated to plastics in agriculture and to mixed rubber-cum-plastic materials. The Conference will also serve to underline the present-day importance of plastics and will show that the European product is the equal in all respects of any other in the world.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of September, 1961

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