

BOOK REVIEW

N. G. GAYLORD, Editor

Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, 2nd Edition, Vol. 1, ANTHONY STANDEN, Editor. Interscience, New York, 1963. xix + 990 pp. \$45 (by subscription \$35).

Volume 1 of the second edition of Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology has the same page size and uses the same easily readable type and high quality paper as the first edition.

The second edition, containing a wealth of information, covers "A" through "Aluminum" in 990 pages whereas the same range of topics occupied only 623 pages in the first edition. This enlargement is because of a considerable increase in the coverage of many subjects and introduction of new subjects.

Examples of extensively covered new subjects are *Abherents*, *Ablation*, *Actinides* and *Algal Cultures*. Many topics covered briefly in the first edition under a general subject entry are individually discussed in the second edition; for example *Acetal Resins*; *Acetate and Triacetate Fibers*; *Acrylic and Modacrylic Fibers*; *Aerosols*; *Alcohols, Unsaturated*; *Alkanolamides*; *Alkoxides, Metal*; *Alkyl Phenols*; and *Adipic Acid*.

In the second edition some subjects that were covered in Volume 1 of the first edition will appear in later volumes, such as *Acetic Acid* to be entered as *Ethanoic Acid*, and *Algin* and *Agar* will be under the subject *Seaweed Colloids*.

The preparation, physical properties, chemical properties and derivatives of chemical compounds are discussed. Those compounds of industrial importance are further discussed with regard to manufacture, use, economic aspects, specifications, analytical and testing methods, materials for storage and handling, and health and safety factors.

As stated in the preface to the second edition, "the first edition concentrated on presenting United States technology; but in the second edition a number of articles have been contributed from abroad, and the intention has been to present chemical technology, wherever it is found, without regard for national boundaries."

The contributors to the second edition have generally covered their subject in considerable detail in well-organized, easily readable style and apparently with accuracy. The bibliographies following each subject are comprehensive and references are as recent as 1962. Under many topics covered in the second edition there is less theoretical and more technological treatment of the subject matter than in the first edition; which, in the opinion of the reviewer, is fitting for such an encyclopedia. Diagrams, photographs, curves and tables are numerous and clearly presented.

The subject matter is of equal value to both the chemist and the chemical engineer. Of particular interest to the polymer chemist, in addition to some named in preceding paragraphs, are articles on *Acrylamide*, *Acrylic Acid and Derivatives*, *Acrylonitrile*, *Adhesives* and *Alkyd Resins*.

If the following volumes of the second edition of the Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology are equal in coverage and excellence to the first volume the work will be an even more valuable reference tool than the first edition.

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