

BOOK REVIEW

Plastic Materials. J. A. BRYDSON. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, 1966. x + 576. \$18.50.

It is difficult to see how the complicated, widespread, and enormously diversified field of synthetic polymers, varying from rubbers, over plastics, coatings, and adhesives, to fibers can be successfully presented to a technically skilled reader in a single, comprehensive volume. And yet, the author of this book has done it.

On a little less than 600 pages he enumerates and describes all presently existing, commercially important synthetic polymers briefly but adequately with the aid of carefully selected tables and figures. The first hundred pages are devoted to a short outline of the chemistry, physical chemistry, and physics of organic polymers which conveys to the reader the basic principles of their structure and of structure-property relationships. Evidently, the presentation of this part is simplified and emphasizes practical rather than theoretical aspects, but it teaches all-important facts and gives the reader a substantial number of references on more profound and elaborate presentations in the field.

The bulk of the book—about 500 pages—contains an excellent description of the individual classes of technically important polymers of the rubber, plastics, adhesives, coatings, and fiber field. In all cases there is presented first an interesting historical introduction, followed by information in the preparation, production, characterization, processing, and application of each individual class of synthetic polymers.

This book is an excellent review of the present state of individual plastics, their origin, manufacture, and uses, and it will be of considerable value to anyone who works in this field.

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