

**Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Technology, Vol. 8 Keratin to Modacrylic Fibers.** H. F. MARK, N. G. GAYLORD, and N. M. BIKALES, Eds., Interscience, New York, 1968. pp. xiii + 839. Subscription \$40.00, single copy \$50.00

Volume 8 maintains the objectives of the editors to present in this encyclopedia a "comprehensive treatment of all monomers and polymers, their properties, methods, and processes for their preparation and manufacture, as well as broad treatment of theoretical fundamentals." This volume contains 34 authoritative and original articles written by 44 specialists. Some of the longer articles include *Keratin*, *Kinetics of Crystallization and Polymerization*, *Laminates*, *Latexes*, *Lignin*, *Machining*, *Mechanical Properties*, *Melt Extrusion*, and *Microencapsulation*.

There is an excellent useful review of the literature of polymers, listing textbooks (classified according to field), review publications, scientific journals, field journals, abstracts, and indexes, as well as advice about patent sources.

All of the articles are well written, up-to-date, and thorough in their treatment. The article on metallizing, for example, provides information concerning the reasons that electroless nickel is tending to supplant electroless copper in the plating of plastics. On the other hand, proprietary information, such as the additives employed in bright electroplating, is omitted, as would be expected. The article on laminates discusses the entire field, but is heavily oriented toward phenolic and decorative laminates, since that is the field of specialization of the author. There are very few, if any, inaccurate statements or data.

The most significant comment one can make concerning this volume, as well as the entire series published to date, is that the encyclopedia provides an enormous amount of hard-to-assemble, valuable information. It provides the polymer chemist or the plastics engineer with a tool which greatly shortens the time it takes to become well versed in a new field, and should be an indispensable reference for years to come.

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