

Introduction to Plastics, J. H. Briston and C. C. Gosselin, Philosophical Library, Inc., New York, 1968. X + 147 pp.

"Introduction to Plastics" by J. H. Briston and C. C. Gosselin is offered as a primer for presenting plastic materials, processing and applications. It is the intent of the authors to discuss plastics in brief form and, therefore, seek the interest of the student, technician and layman.

The many types of plastics, categorized as thermosetting, thermoplastic and natural polymers, are covered in encyclopedia style by presenting history, recognition, manufacture, properties and applications. Due to the technical nature of the subject matter, limited discussions pertaining to the synthesis of the various polymers may be misleading. This portion of the text would be more significant to the reader knowledgeable in organic chemistry.

The chapter on processing plastics covers the available industrial methods for the manufacture of plastic articles. Schematic diagrams describing the various processes are very clear and are of value in trying to clarify engineering principles to the nontechnical reader. Some training in engineering would make the information presented under plastics processing more significant.

The chapters on industrial applications for plastics includes plastics in building, transportation, packaging and the home. Although the brief descriptions are in general terms, they do present plastic trends and the rapid growth of plastic applications in the major industries. The data in this portion of the book should be of interest to those concerned with marketing, sales and business administration. "The Future Is Now" (chapter 10) is an extension of the description of plastics applications and concludes by presenting a need for continued public acceptance leading to a bright future for plastics.

Since the book is a plastics primer, it would be of greater value if it also included general references. Although the "Introduction to Plastics" can be meaningful to the reader without a scientific background, it would have greater significance to the technician, layman and student whose had some training in chemistry and engineering.

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