

High Polymers, Vol. XXIII: Polymer Chemistry of Synthetic Elastomers, Part II, J. P. KENNEDY and E. G. M. TORNVIST, Eds., Interscience, New York, 1969. XIV + 553 pp., \$24.50.

This book completes the series of individual articles on the chemistry of synthetic elastomers. On this occasion it emphasizes condensation polymerization techniques and those elastomers which are prepared using anionic catalysts

The first part of the book covers diene elastomers primarily. A comprehensive review on alkali metal catalysts for the polymerization of isoprene, butadiene, and propylene is followed by an article on the use of anionic coordination catalysts based on transition metal compounds and alkyl aluminum compounds for the polymerization of diolefins. The following two small articles briefly survey ethylene-propylene rubbers and polyalkenamers derived from cyclic olefins. The articles on diolefin polymerization are well done and the review article on polyalkenamers gives a useful summary of an expanding field of polymer chemistry.

The middle of the book contains a number of short review articles on polyurethanes, silicone elastomers, polysulfides and monosulfides, liquid rubbers, catalysis by transition metal salts, and poly(thiocarbonyl fluoride) polymers. These articles are not too detailed and the bibliography is selective rather than comprehensive. However, they provide good background information to the subject.

The final articles are not so much concerned with the preparation of elastomers as with their modification by chemical and radiation methods. A useful index to authors in references cited is given in addition to the usual subject index. All of the articles have been written and compiled by experts and they succeed in presenting a well-balanced survey of the field. In conjunction with Part I, this work can be recommended as a useful addition to scientific libraries.

G. A. Pope

Dunlop Research Centre
Sheridan Park, Ontario