

BOOK REVIEW

La Catalyse au Laboratoire et dans l'Industrie.
Edited by B. CLAUDEL, Masson and Cie, Paris.
1968. 330 pp. Price: \$12.00.

During the summer of 1967, a workshop was organized at the Institut de Catalyse in Lyon to acquaint a group of French industrial chemists and chemical engineers with catalysis in theory and practice. Twenty-four presentations, including a number of laboratory exercises, have been collected in this book by Dr. Claudel. The quality of these chapters, varying in size from 2 pages to 60 pages, varies as much as the quality of French wines. The authoritative survey by P. C. Gravelle of his own calorimetric work has a vintage flavor and cannot be ignored by anyone discussing the oxidation of carbon monoxide on nickel oxide. Another chapter by A. Guyot is a lucid review of recent work in Ziegler-Natta catalysis, including some of the brilliant experiments of Rodriguez *et al.* in the laboratories of European Research Associates in Brussels.

But most of the work summarized in this volume is work performed at the Institut de Catalyse. Therefore, this informal volume is a

very valuable short Cook's tour through this French Institute of Catalysis which under the leadership of Imelik, Prettre, Teichner and Trambouze has already left a profound imprint on catalytic science. All those interested in knowing the scope of the work done at the Institute should read this volume. A few chapters are written by outsiders and they are most interesting. Thus, Professor Maurel, now at the University of Poitiers, summarizes some of his largely unpublished work on competitive hydrogenation of olefins. Also, under the signature of Montarnal and LePage, of the Institut Français du Pétrole, comes an impressive Cartesian essay on applied catalysis which ought to be read by every research director dealing with catalysis.

Besides, this unusual volume should be fun to read by all those who can read French without tears.

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