

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Electrophoresis with "Oxoid" Cellulose Acetate Strips*, a pamphlet of Consolidated Laboratories, Inc., Chicago Heights, Ill.

The use of cellulose acetate as the porous support instead of filter paper offers numerous advantages but requires also modifications in technique. This pamphlet deals with these questions in twenty eight pages and gives some excellent colour reproductions of stained serum patterns. It is actually rather a review article with complete technical details than a commercial pamphlet and should be read by everybody with an interest in electrophoretic techniques. Both the inventor of the technique, Dr. J. KOHN and Consolidated Laboratories should be congratulated on their work.

M. LEDERER (Rome)

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*Paper Electrophoresis — a review of methods and results*, by L. P. RIBEIRO, E. MITIDIARI AND O. R. AFFONSO, Elsevier Publishing Co., Amsterdam, 1961, xii + 464 pages, price Dfl. 37.50.

Several short monographs, as well as various laboratory manuals have already appeared on the subject of paper electrophoresis. *Paper Electrophoresis* by RIBEIRO, MITIDIARI AND AFFONSO, has the great advantage that it provides the largest possible coverage of the whole literature, listing 3226 references. A critical appraisal of the whole subject matter under these conditions is of course impossible, but the research worker will find in this book, united in one volume, much of the literature that has been published in little-known medical journals, which are sometimes difficult to obtain locally.

The main emphasis of the book is on protein separations, this topic being covered in eight chapters dealing with the clinical, analytical and other aspects. The separations of smaller molecules are dealt with in chapters on vitamins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids and their constituents, amino acids and peptides, as well as in a chapter on "other applications". This last chapter, which appears to be somewhat ill-assorted, deals with fourteen topics, such as organic acids, amines, venoms, toxins, porphyrins, carcinogenic substances, dyes, alkaloids, antibiotics, other substances of pharmaceutical interest, indoles, as well as viruses, vegetable proteins and tannins. These topics are covered very capably but some items would perhaps have been more in their place in other chapters. Also in the 12 page chapter on inorganic separations the literature on inorganic acids does not appear to be quite as thoroughly treated as the reviewer would like.

This book should prove invaluable to all chemists, biochemists and medical research workers, as it is so far the only survey available that can be used as a reference book for all aspects of electrophoretic separations on paper. The printing and illustrations are of a high standard and few printer's errors were noted by the reviewer.

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