

BOOK REVIEW

Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, edited by WILLIAM HORWITZ, 9th Ed., The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, Washington, D.C., 1960, xx + 832 pages, price \$ 17.50 (in U.S.A.); \$ 18.00 (elsewhere).

By increasing the page size, using two columns of type to a page and omitting the chapter on soils, the A.O.A.C. has managed to increase considerably the content of its ninth edition of *Methods of Analysis* and yet produce a manageable book.

The use of instrumental and chromatographic techniques has increased enormously; for example, there are now six infra-red methods included and chromatographic methods are legion. Paper chromatography is used to detect adulterants in vanilla extracts, to follow the efficiency of sugar separations on a charcoal column, and to detect commercial glucose in honey. Besides dyestuff analysis, column chromatography is used extensively in pesticide residue analysis to concentrate active material from the complex substrates always found in this work.

New chapters appear for disinfectants and for additives in feeds; new bioassay procedures are given for shell fish poison, antibiotics in feed supplements, and for protein quality; the isotope technique for BHC (mixed isomers of 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexachlorocyclohexane) appears as a First Action Method; the I.U.P.A.C. collaborative study on trace amounts of copper in foods also appears as a First Action Method and the molybdo-vanadate colorimetric method for phosphorus is introduced as an official method for certain fertilizers.

Although several new pesticide methods are given both for macro and residue analysis, the fact that there are methods given for less than one-fifth of the number of pesticides registered by the U.S.D.A. emphasises once more that much research is needed to find analytical methods of sufficient sensitivity and specificity for inclusion in this book.

The A.O.A.C. has maintained its usual high standard of book production and this volume is a worthy successor to its predecessors.

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Page 199, line 7 from bottom: for "1/4 in." read "1/16 in."

Page 200, legend to Fig. 3: for "C' = Leveling bracket" read "C' = Levering bracket".