

Die Methode überprüften wir bei der Papierchromatographie der Hydrazide der aliphatischen Säuren, sowie der Cyanessigsäure und der Isonicotinsäure. Hydrazin gibt keine positive Reaktion, dagegen reagiert Semikarbazid positiv.

*Forschungsinstitut für organische Synthesen,
Pardubice-Rybitví (Tschechoslowakei)*

A. CEE

¹ K. SATAKE UND T. SEKI, *Kagaku no Ryōhiki*, 4 (1950) 557; *C.A.*, 45 (1951) 4604.

² R. L. HINMAN, *Anal. Chim. Acta*, 15 (1956) 125.

³ O. DIMROTH UND G. DE MONTMOLLIN, *Ber.*, 43 (1910) 2904.

⁴ P. HEINRICH UND W. SCHELER, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 30 (1947) 886.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Treatise on Analytical Chemistry, edited by I. M. KOLTHOFF AND P. J. ELVING with the assistance of E. B. SANDELL, Interscience Publishers Inc., New York, Part I, *Theory and Practice*, Vol. 3, pages 1309-1750, 1961, price \$ 16.75.

This volume is part of a series of which the first has already been reviewed and unreservedly praised in this journal. Its uniformly high standard had raised hopes that Vol. 3, on chromatographic methods, would provide a classic reference work for many years to come. This unfortunately cannot be said to be entirely the case.

It contains two excellent chapters, one on solvent extraction and one on ion exchange (by H. IRVING AND R. J. P. WILLIAMS and by W. RIEMAN AND A. C. BREYER respectively), which are quite up to the standard set by the previous volume. However, this does not hold true for the chapters dealing with chromatography, which appear to the reviewer to be sadly lacking in data and final polish, too much basic information, essential in a handbook, having been omitted. More exhaustive proof-reading could also have avoided many errors in the reference lists and such slips as the mention that "isotopes of radium" can be separated by paper chromatography, the paper cited referring to a separation of RaD, RaE and RaF.

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The Chromatography of Steroids, by I. E. BUSH, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1961, 437 pages, price 60 s.

The scope of this treatise goes far beyond its title. Not only is the chromatography of steroids discussed from various angles, but also the first concise presentation of the theory and applications of R_M and ΔR_M values is given. It can sometimes be considered of only incidental importance that steroids are employed as examples for structural

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determinations. Further, an excellent discussion of separation and quantitative techniques illustrates the uses of chromatographic methods in structural chemistry.

It is a book that we can recommend for reading to all organic chemists and biochemists, especially as it can be read as readily and with as much fascination as a novel. As a handbook it has certain drawbacks, since much of the information is only of use if the R_M concept is employed. The constancy of R_M values for homologous series and the additivity of ΔR_M values, which have been criticised lately, are not presented fully by the author as they are not relevant to most problems in steroid chemistry.

The printing is excellent and no printers' errors were noted by the reviewer.

MICHAEL LEDERER (Rome)

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Two new Italian research journals

The Scientific Reports of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Elsevier, Amsterdam), are now published regularly in English in four issues per year. In this new journal the more important research papers of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità will appear as well as lectures given by guest lecturers at the Istituto and papers read at symposia organised by the Istituto. The first volume consisting of 591 pages appeared in 1961. Its first issue contained 13 research papers, the second and third the proceedings of the first international fermentation symposium held in Rome (May 1960), the fourth issue contains lectures by ROBERT G. PARR (Pittsburgh), K. WIESNER (Fredericton, Canada) and P. ALEXANDER (London). The second volume will contain the proceedings of the symposium on Leishmaniasis (Rome, May 1961). Although the topics dealt with range from medicine over applied biochemistry to pure chemistry, it is felt that this new journal will be of considerable interest to all research institutes concerned with health problems, which encompass the same wide field of research.

La Ricerca Scientifica (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Rome), which for many years has published research work carried out under the direction of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, has now been reorganised into specialised editions: Part I, "Rivista", which publishes review articles in all branches of science. Part II, Section A, "Abiologica", will publish research papers on non-biological topics, while Section B, "Biologica" will contain the research papers of biological-medical character. Topics of informative value and news as well as book reviews, etc., have been collected in the "Notiziario". The reports of the various institutes of the C.N.R. will appear in a separate "Supplemento". While the reviews are in Italian, research papers in English, French, Italian and German are accepted and these contain detailed summaries in several languages. All sections maintain the excellent production of the old "Ricerca Scientifica", with a wealth of coloured illustrations and excellent printing.

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