

## Book Review

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*Quantitative thin-layer chromatography*, edited by J. C. Touchstone, Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1973, XII + 330 pp., price £ 8.35.

Undoubtedly one of the most difficult problems in thin-layer chromatography (TLC) is quantitative analysis, which is the reason why, in recent years, several international symposia have been devoted to this problem, some of which were later published in book form. Following Shellard's book (London Symposium, 1968)<sup>1</sup>, the Proceedings of the 1971 Loughborough Symposium<sup>2</sup> and the book by Macek and Hais (Carlsbad Symposium, 1972)<sup>3</sup>, this new publication edited by Touchstone contains the papers presented during the Philadelphia Symposia in 1970 and 1971.

The present book differs from the other publications on quantitative TLC mentioned above in that it mainly stresses the applications of this technique to different types of organic compounds, mainly those which are of pharmaceutical and biomedical interest. The technique of quantitative analysis itself is covered only briefly in the introduction (22 pages). Also, the attention that is devoted to the theoretical basis of quantitative TLC, instrumentation and factors that can adversely affect quantitative analysis is inadequate. The literature cited in this part of the book is very poor. Other chapters are oriented mostly towards a particular aspect of the problem and include much more detail. Most attention is devoted to steroids, lipids, sugars, several pharmaceutical applications, amino acids, purines and nucleotides, mycotoxins, pesticides and air pollution analysis. These sections are not presented in review form but they collect the personal experiences of the respective authors, which is very useful to the reader. Some unusual terms and classifications could be raised with the Editor; for example, it is not usual to classify fluorimetry as densitometry. Also, a number of the abbreviations used do not agree with international recommendations (e.g., Phen ala, Leuc, Glut acid).

In spite of some of these drawbacks, which are common to many symposia proceedings, Touchstone's book, particularly the part devoted to applications, is certainly a welcome addition to the literature on TLC.

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## REFERENCES

- 1 E. J. Shellard (Editor), *Quantitative Paper and Thin-Layer Chromatography*, Academic Press, London, 1968, 140 pp.
- 2 *Quantitative Thin-Layer Chromatography*, Fisons Scientific Apparatus, Loughborough, 1972, 131 pp.
- 3 K. Macek and I. M. Hais (Editors), *Flat-Bed Chromatography with Special Reference to Quantitative Analysis*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1973, 200 pp.; see also *J. Chromatogr.*, 78 (1973) 1-200.