

HPLC, the interfacing of HPLC and mass spectrometry will continue to be vigorously developed and will undoubtedly become as widely used as gas chromatography-mass spectrometry in the future. A final chapter (Becker) tabulates the specifications of commercial liquid chromatographs and detectors. Readers in Britain will be surprised to note the omission of any reference to the well known range of photometers marketed by Cecil Instruments of Cambridge and the reviewer was surprised to note the omission of any reference to the interferometric refractive index detector made by Optilab Sweden. These are minor matters except to the companies concerned in an excellent book which will be most valuable to liquid chromatographers world wide.

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### Book Review

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*Basic liquid chromatography*, by E. L. Johnson and R. Stevenson, Varian, Palo Alto, Calif., 1978, XI + 354 pp., price US\$ 9.75 (soft cover), US\$ 12.75 (hard cover).

In writing the Foreword to this book Professor H. M. McNair expresses the opinion that, for the beginner, this is the best textbook covering the subject of high-performance liquid chromatography today. Indeed, despite the several publications which have appeared during the last 2-3 years, there is much in this book to substantiate this opinion. In fact, this book is a major revision of a very popular edition first published in 1971; the most significant changes arise from the replacement of pellicular packings with microparticulates and the present widespread use of chemically bonded phases.

The chapter headings follow the now familiar pattern of an introduction, theory, the four main separation modes, special techniques, e.g., solvent or column programming and derivatisation, qualitative and quantitative analysis, equipment and its maintenance. The authors have laid the emphasis on technique and the practical application of theory rather than theory itself. Perhaps this is just as well, since many of the few misprints seem to have been concentrated into the chapter on column theory. For example, equation 2.3 for measuring column efficiency is wrong whilst the use of small and capital letters seem to be interchanged indiscriminately. This reaches a climax in the plate height equation 2.10 where  $v$  and  $V$  are both used to denote the mobile phase velocity. Elsewhere in the chapter,  $V$  symbolises volume.

As a whole, the style is comfortably readable and the book is well laid out with many cross-references and clear diagrams. Like its predecessor, it should prove to be a popular introduction for the novice to high-performance liquid chromatography.

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