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Preface

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Preface

Polyaldehydes are among the oldest synthetic polymers known. They have helped to advance our knowledge of polymers on many occasions, but then they slumbered while other polymers became breath-taking successes. Because formaldehyde polymers have now become commercial products, interest in the aldehyde polymers has increased substantially.

On January 18, 1966, at the winter meeting of the American Chemical Society in Phoenix, Arizona, a symposium on "Polymerization of Aldehydes and Structure of Polyaldehydes" was held under the auspices of the Polymer Division. This was the first symposium ever held on aldehyde polymerization.

The purpose of this symposium was to bring the audience up to date on the present status of our knowledge of aldehyde polymers. The papers were chiefly of a review nature. Efforts were made in this symposium to present the whole picture of polyaldehydes, from their chemistry of polymerization (formaldehyde, trioxane, higher aliphatic and haloaliphatic aldehydes) to their structure determination by NMR and x-ray analysis and, finally, to the morphology of polyaldehydes.

Because of their similarity to polyaldehydes the polymerization of some interesting thiocarbonyl compounds was also discussed in this symposium.

Short versions of the talks which were given at the symposium appeared in *ACS Polymer Reprints*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 1966. We acknowledge gratefully the courtesy of the American Chemical Society in allowing us to reprint some of the data in this issue of the *Journal of Macromolecular Chemistry*.

I also wish to thank Professor M. Goodman and Dr. H. C. Miller for their assistance during the symposium.

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