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Preface

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Symposium on Cyclopolymerization of Diallylamines

PREFACE

Cyclopolymerization is a relatively new area of polymer science which has important theoretical and practical implications. Numerous reviews and symposia covering the general concepts of cyclopolymerization have been published in the last 10 years, but more detailed studies are required, particularly on the mechanisms involved in polymer formation and on the structures of the polymers.

Our own interest has been concentrated on diallylamines because of the industrial importance of polymers and copolymers derived from these monomers in areas such as fiber formation, flocculants, dispersants, thickening agents, ion exchange resins, antistats, and the ability of amphoteric copolymers to convert chemical energy into mechanical energy. In these applications the properties of the polymer would be expected to depend on the structural units present in the polymer chain, and in particular on the environment around the nitrogen atoms. The steric environment of the basic groups and the distance separating them are known to influence their basicity and consequently the properties of the polymer. Therefore, detailed information on the nature of the cyclic units in the polymer chain is vital to a thorough understanding of the polymer properties. In this symposium, which was held at the Division of Applied Organic Chemistry, CSIRO, in January 1974, we will attempt to answer some of the theoretical aspects of cyclopolymerization of diallylamines. The practical application of these studies to commercially useful polymers will be reported at a later date.

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