

Book review

Purification of Laboratory Chemicals; by D.D. Perrin, W.L.F. Armarego, and D.R. Perrin. Pergamon, Oxford, Second Edition, 1980, x + 568 pages, £32.00, \$72.00.

The second edition of this useful book takes account of advances in purification methods since the first edition appeared in 1966, and some outdated sections have been removed to make way for newer material. The number of individual compounds considered has been substantially increased; this section takes up 474 pages of the 568 pages, 3500 organic and 700 inorganic and organometallic chemicals being included.

The book first outlines common physical and chemical purification techniques, gives information on purification of a large number of individual compounds, and finally considers general methods for purifying classes of compounds, all organic. It is undoubtedly a useful book to have available in the laboratory, since it can save a great deal of time in literature searching, but inevitably any particular user will find annoying gaps, since the choice of individual compounds covered must be fairly arbitrary. For example, while reviewing the book I needed to know how to purify AgBF_4 , a compound of some importance these days to organometallic chemists, but found it not to be included. (The silver salts which are listed are AgOAc , AgBrO_3 , AgBr , AgClO_3 , AgIO_3 , AgNO_3 , AgNO_2 , AgClO_4 , and Ag_2SO_4 , and it is not easy to see any particular reason for this choice.)

The book is printed by reproduction of typescript, which leads to a most extravagant waste of space, especially in the individual compounds section.

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