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Book reviews

Directory of Graduate Research 1985, American Chemical Society, Washington, 1985, xxiii + 1260 pages. U.S. $46.00 (in U.S.A. and Canada); $56.00 (elsewhere). ISBN 0-8412-0935-9.

Many readers of this journal will be fully familiar with this valuable publication, which appears periodically, but in my experience it is still not as well known, and certain not as readily available, outside North America as it should be. This most recent issue provides information for almost all universities and colleges in the U.S.A. and Canada which offer organized curricula leading to doctoral and masters degrees in departments of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Pharmaceutical/Medicinal Chemistry, Clinical Chemistry, and Polymer Science. For each department, faculty members are listed alphabetically with brief biographical details, research interests, specific subjects of current research, telephone numbers, and lists of publications appearing in 1983 and 1984. There are also statistical summaries, giving for each department information such as the numbers of full time academic staff, postdoctoral fellows, total graduate involvement, and numbers of M.S. and Ph.D. degrees granted in 1982—83 and 1983—84. There is an index of all the names of faculty members listed in the volume.

The main function of the compilation is to enable those interested to find out, for example, (a) where certain chemists are, exactly what they are currently working on, and how productive they are, or (b) what is going on in a particular department. It is invaluable to new doctoral graduates contemplating seeking postdoctoral posts in North America. It can also, however, be looked at for more general interest; for example, I decided to check on my assumption that X-ray crystallographers would have the largest numbers of papers; I did not, of course, look at every entry, but I did find that although Jerry L. Atwood, for example, published 63 articles in 1983—1984, even larger numbers were published by an organic chemist, Alan R. Katritzky (71), and by an organometallic chemist, Herbert C. Brown (also 71).

The statistical section is also very interesting; I noticed, for example, that the department of chemistry with the most postdoctoral fellows in 1984 was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, viz. 105, but the ratio of such fellows to full time faculty, viz. 3.2, was lower there than at Harvard, where the total number was 99 and the ratio 4.7. Numbers of postdoctoral fellows and, in parentheses, the ratio of fellows to faculty, for a few other places with high numbers and/or high ratios are as follows: Stanford 69 (3.45); Columbia 57 (3.17); California Institute of Technology 58 (2.42); Princeton 40 (2.22); Cornell 60 (2.06); University of Texas at Austin 73 (1.74); Alberta 67 (1.68); Texas A. and M. 66 (1.22).

This excellent reference work is very well produced, and is a bargain at the price. Its companion volume dealing with institutions outside the U.S.A., entitled Chemistry Research Faculties, was also very favourably reviewed in this journal a few months ago (290 (1985) C43).

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