

## BOOK REVIEW

### REFERENCES

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*TRACE ANALYSIS*. Edited by J. H. Yoe and K. J. Koch. Pp. xiii + 672. Chapman & Hall, London, 1957. 96s.

Many current chemical and biochemical problems are concerned with the isolation and evaluation of small quantities of organic and inorganic materials, and a knowledge of suitably selective methods is often essential to their successful solution. The publication in this volume of a series of papers presented at a Symposium on Trace Analysis held at the New York Academy of Medicine in 1956 is therefore timely in that it provides a useful survey of such methods. It includes 24 separate papers, collected under three headings, and each dealing with an individual aspect of trace analysis, together with reports of the ensuing discussions. The first and by far the largest section, of methodology, cover such widely differing techniques as chromatography, electrophoresis, counter-current extraction, ion exchange techniques, chemical microscopy, colorimetry, fluorimetry, flame photometry, potentiometry, coulometry, polarography and voltammetry, amperometry, emission spectrochemical analysis, gamma-ray spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, X-ray spectroscopy, X-ray micrography, neutron activation analysis and microbiological techniques. This is followed by two shorter sections, Part II on instrumentation and the interaction of  $\beta$ -particles with matter, and Part III on sensitivity, and separation, concentration and contamination. The papers are not comprehensive, but provide a reasonable review of the use of the various techniques, and each section carries extensive references. The value of including verbatim records of the discussions is a little doubtful, and some editing of these sections might have reduced the cost of this otherwise excellent volume.

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