

BOOK REVIEW

HANDBUCH DER PAPIERCHROMATOGRAPHIE. By I. M. Hais and K. Macek. Vol. II. Bibliographie und Anwendungen. Pp. xxiv + 726 (including Index). VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena, 1960. DM.44.00.

When the first massive volume of this pair of books on chromatography was published last year (for review see *J.P.P.*, October, 1959, p. 637), the authors promised a second volume dealing with more specific methods. This has now appeared under the subtitle: *Bibliography and Applications*.

The contents consists of ten thousand numbered references with their titles arranged under subject headings, complemented by separate indices of authors and individual compounds.

While in the last fifteen years paper chromatography has emerged as a major tool in analytical technique, many of its users are unaware that it was applied many years before its official recognition in 1952 when Martin and Synge received their Nobel Prize. The authors have uncovered many references which they have brought together in a historical section. Here one can find such interesting information as the fact that Bailey in the *J. chem. Soc.*, 33, 304, described a method to detect cadmium by the use of filterpaper as early as 1878. Tsewett, well known as the originator of chromatography is quoted and references to all his early papers can be found. But the references are by no means restricted to those of historical value. One doubts whether any relevant paper escaped the scrutiny of the authors: the thorough searching and collating has created an impressive document. It extends to the year 1956 after which date no papers are included. This is no great drawback since most techniques had been worked out by that time. And as all references give the full titles of papers as well as the names of the authors, the user is handed a quick guide to the possible usefulness of the given reference.

A check of half a dozen subjects has shown that no relevant works have been omitted. In fact, many from unusual sources have been included. The authors express their gratitude, for example, to a compiler of Japanese papers. The titles of many of these are those which one might wish to consult although the language barrier may present a great difficulty even if the journal is available.

Most of us remain confined to those English language papers to which the majority of libraries subscribe, and whilst in some scientific fields whole Russian journals are translated into English it will be many years before it will be taken for granted that one can consult, for example, *Naturwissenschaften* or *Biochimija* in a form which is intelligible to all scientists—a further argument for language standardization in scientific literature, whether it be in Interlingua, Esperanto or even English!

Nevertheless this reference book will be of the greatest value to research workers, whether multi- or monolingual, as the text is confined to a minimum, and two-thirds of the papers referred to are in English. When embarking on the chromatography of a new compound or substance this book will provide a rapid and accurate list of work already undertaken by other workers, and it will without a doubt save considerable time in literature research. It is a book that will prove very popular in the chemical library.

B. REIFF.