

## BOOK REVIEW

*NAME INDEX OF ORGANIC REACTIONS.* By J. E. Gowan and T. S. Wheeler. Pp. 293 (including Index). Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd., London, 1960. 50s.

When the first small version of "Name Index of Organic Reactions" was published by the Society of Chemical Industry in 1950 notes of this kind proved to be invaluable as a reference to organic reactions associated with their discoverers. This must have been generally recognised since the first edition found immediate favour and two subsequent reprints were rapidly exhausted.

The original aim was to give an idea of the nature of the reaction and also a few references from which further information could be gathered. The authors pointed out at that time that the undesirable custom was growing up of labelling organic reactions, even those which are uncommon, with the discoverer's name. This practice, which has caused some obscurity, has nevertheless persisted and publications on organic chemistry are continually referring to reactions solely by the name of the discoverers or persons who have developed them. It is therefore necessary for the chemist to be familiar with the name reaction or to have ready access to information about it. The new edition of "Name Index of Organic Reactions" has been written to serve this purpose.

This book is far more than a revised version of the old; it has been completely rewritten and is now comprehensive, containing 739 named reactions and also molecular rearrangements. A clear and concise description of each reaction, illustrated by general or where necessary specific equations, is given. In addition, references to original papers and articles published on the reaction are included, many of which have appeared within the last ten years.

All the reactions are in alphabetical order, enabling easy cross reference to similar reactions to be made. A general index is included and also a valuable index of the type of reaction, for example, acetylation, decarboxylation or reduction; this enables the reader to consult alternative ways of performing the reaction.

Readers familiar with the first edition will realise the immense value of this new book. It will be an indispensable companion for anyone who reads the literature on organic chemistry whether as a student, teacher or research worker. The book, well bound and printed, is inexpensive for the wealth of information on organic chemistry included by the authors.

N. ROBINSON.