

Book Review

Specialist Periodical Reports: Photochemistry, Vol. 8, Senior Reporter, D. Bryce-Smith, published by The Chemical Society, London, 1977; 644 + xix pp.; price \$ 74.00, £ 37.00.

The eighth volume of the Photochemistry Specialist Periodical Report follows the tradition set by its predecessors, and it covers, in general, the literature published in the period July 1975 to June 1976. The Senior Reporter is Professor D. Bryce-Smith, and he is assisted by ten other contributors. Bryce-Smith provides an Introduction, with a "Review of the Year", to six main sections of the book.

Section I (163 pages) is concerned with Physical aspects of photochemistry and is made up of three chapters. M. A. West provides a two-year review of developments in instrumentation and techniques that is exceptionally valuable. K. Salisbury and D. Phillips follow with accounts of photoprocesses in condensed and gas phases respectively.

Section II (69 pages on the Photochemistry of inorganic and organometallic compounds) is written by J. M. Kelly; section III (303 pages on Organic aspects of photochemistry) has seven chapters contributed by Messrs. Horspool, Gilbert, Carless and Reid.

D. Phillips reports for Section IV (29 pages on Polymer photochemistry). He includes a valuable survey of the patent literature with appropriate tables. The large quantity of material on Solar energy conversion that has appeared during the review period is discussed by Mary Archer (Section V: 21 pages). One of the most important papers considered is that by Whitten and coworkers on the photochemistry of monolayer-bound complexes of ruthenium(II) adjacent to an aqueous phase. Section VI (Chemical aspects of photobiology: 18 pages) is a newcomer to the Report. G. S. Beddard deals with the photochemical and photophysical aspects of the primary processes in photosynthesis and vision, with special reference to chlorophylls and retinals.

The main value of the Report is in the way that the reviews give ready access to the literature. By and large, the reviews themselves are uncritical, although the various authors do attempt to put the citations into their context. Since the review period ends more than a year before publication of the Report, it is clear that the Specialist Periodical Reports provide more of a starting point for literature searches than an up-to-date summary. However, the Report achieves its objectives, and it will make a valuable addition to any departmental library. It is just to be hoped that Professor Bryce-Smith and his team continue to dig into the literature as enthusiastically for future volumes.

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