London, we have been able to compare a sample of our hydrocarbon obtained from soils[1] with a sample of the same hydrocarbon obtained from vegetable sources. A mixture of the two substances melts at 68°, the same temperature as the melting point of either one alone. This establishes conclusively the identity of the two compounds.

OSWALD SCHREINER AND EDMUND C. SHOREY.

NEW BOOKS.

A Text Book of Organic Chemistry. By WILLIAM A. NOYES. Professor of Chemistry in the University of Illinois. Second Edition. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 537 pp. Price, $1.50.

The new edition of this introduction to organic chemistry is written along the same lines as its predecessor. The most unique feature of the text is the radical departure from the general method of treatment of the subject, and the dropping of the division of organic chemistry into fatty and organic compounds. An attempt has been made to bring the book up to date, and considerable new and interesting material has been added. Less material however is presented than in other introductory text books of organic chemistry.

The chapter on Compounds of Interest in Physiology and Pathology has been rewritten on the basis of the classification of proteins recently adopted by the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Physiological Society.

Owing to the overwhelming and increasing mass of chemical data at the disposal of a writer it might be expected that some errors will appear in a text of this character. There is one misstatement however in this book to which the reviewer is compelled to call attention. He was certainly surprised to read on page 295 that "*uracil* the mother substance of uric acid has not been prepared." This pyrimidine was first synthesized by Fischer and Roeder in 1901 (*Ber. chem. Ges.*, **34**, 3751) and later by Wheeler and Merriam in 1903 (*Am. Chem. J.*, **29**, 478). The latest paper on the synthesis of this compound was published by Wheeler and Liddle in 1908 (*Am. Chem. J.*, **40**, 547).

The reviewer also desires to call attention to pages 306 and 307, where the author states that ethyl cyanate is formed by the action of cyanogen chloride on sodium ethylate and that the ester is decomposed by alkali giving alcohol and potassium cyanate. A student would naturally conclude from these statements that the oxygen esters of cyanic acid HNCO are capable of existence. The statement is evidently based on the statements in Beilstein's Handbuch, **1**, 1266–7, but the author has evidently overlooked the fact that Nef (*Ann.*, **287**, 310) examined the

[1] THIS JOURNAL, **33**, 82.

behavior of cyanogen chloride towards sodium alcoholate and showed that they combine, giving diethyl iminocarbonate $HN:C(OC_2H_5)_2$. He states: "Die wirklichen Ester der normalen Cyansäure sind bislang nicht bekannt." See also Beilstein's "Handbuch" (Ergänzungsband), Vol. I, p. 719, and Richter's "Organische Chemie," Vol. I, p. 510 (edition of 1909).

The author believes that a satisfactory knowledge of organic chemistry cannot be acquired from a text-book alone and recommends a large amount of laboratory work. This is a commendable view. In order to aid the instructor in directing experimental work a series of preparations is appended to each chapter of the book. T. B. JOHNSON.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

AEBY, J.: **Dangerous Goods.** French, English, and German names of all commercial products which may be regarded as dangerous to handle in bulk. Antwerp: J. Aeby.

D'ARBAUMONT, J.: **Nouvelle Contribution a l'Etude des Corps chlorophylliens.** 8°, 32 pp., 2 Fr.

ARENDT, R.: **Technik der anorganischen Experimentalchemie.** 4 Aufl. Leipzig: Leopold Voss. 24 M.

BAUR, E.: **Themen der physikalischen Chemie.** Auf Veranlassung des Vereins deutscher Ingenierue an der Techn. Hochschule Braunschweig gehaltene Vorträge. Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, 113 pp., 4.80 M.

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CLAASSEN, HALL, W. AND ROLFE, G.: **Beet-sugar Manufacture.** New York: John Wiley & Sons. 8°, 343 pp., $3.00.

CLENNELL, J. E.: **The Cyanide Handbook.** London: 8°, 22.50 M.

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DÖDERLEIN, G.: **Prüfung und Berechnung ausgeführter Ammoniak-Kompressions-Kältermaschinen an Hand des Indicator-Diagrammes.** 2 Aufl. München: R. Oldenbourg, 6 M.