

jected. This box is placed so that the beam of intense light coming through the end of the quartz tube projects on the material in the melting point tube, allowing the observer to follow the fusion of the substance easily, with the added advantage that none of the light is directed at the observer's eyes. To prevent overheating it is preferable to provide breathing holes in the bottom and top of the box.

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NEW BOOKS

Kolloidchemie: Ein Lehrbuch. (Colloid Chemistry: A Textbook.) By DR. RICHARD ZSIGMONDY, Professor at the University of Göttingen. II. Fifth, enlarged and completely revised edition. Otto Spamer, Leipzig, Germany. 1927. x + 256 pp. 16 figs. 25 × 17.5 cm. Price, unbound, Rm. 14; bound, Rm. 16.

The author speaks of this book as a textbook. It is really more of a handbook; particularly this second volume, in which the author takes up *seriatim* all the various colloids which have been prepared and studied. The inorganic colloids occupy about two-thirds, the organic colloids about one-third of the volume.

Under each colloid are given the methods used for its preparation, its properties and behavior, its occurrence and uses. The volume affords a valuable and, so far as I know, unique handbook of what might be called descriptive colloid chemistry.

The treatment is clear and succinct. However, references to the earlier editions are perplexingly numerous so that one really needs to have them at hand.

Professor Handovsky and Dr. Thiessen, both of the University of Göttingen, wrote the chapters entitled, respectively, "Colloidal Albumins" and "Soaps."

ARTHUR B. LAMB

An Introduction to Organic Chemistry. By ROGER J. WILLIAMS, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, University of Oregon. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., 8 Warren Street, New York City, 1927. ix + 565 pp. 8 figs. 22 × 14 cm. Price, \$3.75.

The author has been refreshingly successful in his attempt to bring organic chemistry into consonance with the modern treatment of descriptive inorganic chemistry which precedes it in the student's course of study. The selection of descriptive material and the order of its presentation obviates reference to pages further on in the story whose subject matter as a whole has not been studied and excerpts from which are

so often misunderstood or entirely misleading. Infractions of this rule occur so late in the text that they are not so annoying and harmful. Some consideration of atomic structure in a textbook for beginners was long overdue. However, the appearance in such a book of equations showing the production of oxygen and hydrogen available for oxidation or reduction processes might well be a subject for adverse criticism.

The attentive student of this text will be ever mindful that the criterion of the soundness of theory is its conformation to facts. In its pages he will find sound treatment of fundamentals and enough illustrative application of them to inspire him to further study of larger works and literature.

Perhaps a little too exhaustive consideration is given to the proteins, but on the whole the book is well balanced. It is handy in form and attractive in appearance. Without question it shows distinct progress from a pedagogical standpoint and merits most careful consideration.

C. E. BOLSER

Organic Syntheses. An Annual Publication of Satisfactory Methods for the Preparation of Organic Chemicals. Vol. VII. Edited by FRANK C. WHITMORE, WITH ROGER ADAMS, H. T. CLARKE, J. B. CONANT, HENRY GILMAN AND C. S. MARVEL. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York City, 1927. 105 pp. 1 fig. 23.5 × 15.5 cm. Price \$1.50.

The seventh volume of Organic Syntheses is at hand, with a new Editor-in-Chief but with the same Editorial Board, and without any change in the essential features of earlier volumes. The reviewer notes with pleasure that nearly all of the thirty preparations have been supplied by contributors, of whom more than half appear for the first time in this volume. Since the editorial board, on principle, assumes the burden of checking all directions, we others have no better way of showing our gratitude for this large and steadily increasing number of carefully developed preparations than by contributing our bit.

The present volume contains directions for the following preparations: anhydro-2-hydroxymercuri-3-nitrobenzoic acid, *p*-arsonophenoxyacetic acid, benzanilide, β -bromo-ethylphthalimide, 2-bromo-3-nitrobenzoic acid, chloro-acetamide, *p*-chloromercuribenzoic acid, α -cyano- β -phenylacrylic acid, *p*-dimethylaminobenzophenone, 3,5-dinitro-anisole, diphenic acid, ethyl bromomalonate, ethyl *n*-butylacetoacetate, furan, furfuralacetone, 2-furylmethyl acetate, guanidine nitrate, hydrogen cyanide (anhydrous), β -hydroxypropionic acid, β -iodobenzoic acid, methyl *n*-amyl ketone, α -methyl mannoside, nitroguanidine, 3-nitrophthalic acid, 3-nitrophthalic anhydride, pentene-2, phthalimidomalonic ester, triphenyl stibine, xanthone, xanthidrol.

E. P. KOHLER