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 BOOK REVIEWS
 

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**Statistical Mechanics of Irreversible Change.** BY RICHARD T. COX, Professor of Physics, The Johns Hopkins University. The Johns Hopkins Press, Homewood, Baltimore 18, Maryland. 1955. viii + 130 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price, \$5.00.

This booklet is an expanded version of Prof. Cox's recent papers on the thermodynamics of irreversible processes. Following a review of equilibrium theory, typical irreversible phenomena are treated on the basis of time-proportional transition probabilities among groups of states assumed to be in local equilibrium. This approach is applied in the linear approximation to topics such as Brownian motion, thermal conduction, thermochemical effects, thermoelectric effects and chemical rates. The treatment is concluded with a discussion of the constrained approach to equilibrium. Since the technique employed here provides an alternative to Onsager's regression of fluctuations approach, the pedagogic value of the book would have been enhanced by a more detailed examination of the basic inherent assumptions of the theory.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

FRANK P. BUFF

**Kolorimetrie-Photometrie und Spektrometrie. Eine Anleitung zur Ausführung von Absorptions-, Emissions-, Fluoreszenz-, Streuungs-, Trübungs- und Reflexionsmessungen. Anleitungen für die Chemische Laboratoriumspraxis. Band II. Dritte Neubearbeitete Auflage.** BY GUSTAV KORRUM. Springer-Verlag, Publishers, Reichpietschauer 20, Berlin W. 35, Germany. 1955. viii + 458 pp. 14.5 × 21 cm. Price, 36 DM.

This book is concerned with the wide variety of techniques involved in the colorimetry, photometry and spectrometry of the ultraviolet, visible and infrared and in the various applications of those techniques in fields as diverse, for example, as pH and concentration measurement, turbidimetry, Raman spectra and fluorescence. Its title is a modest statement of its objectives.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1942 and contained 209 pages of textual material (including index) in which the principal emphasis was on visual and photographic methods. At that time the common procedure in a laboratory in which a light-measurement problem existed was to tie together any available equipment (usually photographic for permanent records or thermoelectric for "direct" comparison) in more or less permanent form depending on the duration of the proposed study. Occasionally, photoelectric equipment would be connected into the apparatus, calibrated and made a part of some recording device, so that measurements might be made and recorded at higher speed and with more absolute reliability. More recently, the photomultiplier tube made other refinements possible. All these devices were the precursors of the highly integrated semiautomatic and automatic commercial units, the rapidly increasing variety of which has necessitated this third edition of a very useful book.

The text clearly shows a responsiveness on the part of author to suggestions and criticism of the earlier versions. An original 17 pages of "general fundamentals" has become 57 pages; the Lambert-Beer law is now the Bouguer-Lambert-Beer law with appropriate historical reference to the original contributor. The author now gives careful attention to the range of applicability of the law and the limitations on its usefulness. More than a hundred pages are now devoted to laboratory aids (small apparatus, solvents, etc.) for optical studies; the approach is detailed and thorough. Photoelectric and thermoelectric techniques together now take over 160 pages; in the first edition the latter received bare mention. A student who wants and needs to know why, as well as how, his apparatus works and what is its achievable range of reliability receives the guidance he requires. It is refreshing to have a text which makes unashamed reference to apparatus by its commercial name and

the name of the vendor or manufacturer. For those who must choose apparatus most suitable for their immediate and longer range requirements, this book gives assistance of a kind which cannot be obtained by matching and discounting the discourses of competing salesmen.

The text is not a manual for the use of apparatus (although it contains 186 well-prepared illustrations) and does not replace the instructions which come with apparatus. The latter remain a necessity for which the author wisely does not attempt to provide a substitute. In a work so ambitious as is represented by the title it should be easy to discover omissions; the amazing feature is the number of techniques and pieces of equipment covered in a reasonably thorough fashion in a relatively short work. The inadvertent chauvinism corollary to an author's greater acquaintance with the work of his own country is minimal. References to American apparatus and techniques are particularly frequent. Doubtless, there are instances where specific technical improvements are overlooked but this reviewer is not able to report them in detail.

The third edition, like the first, concludes with ten detailed descriptions of applications of the various techniques but the applications given are not all the same; the change in choice presumably reflects developments of the intervening 13 years. It is regrettable, under the circumstances, that fluorescence-quenching, discussed in the last chapter of the first edition, is omitted from the third. The text (it appears to this reviewer) contains inadequate reference to recent remarkable achievements in that field, particularly in regard to measurements of very short half-lives of excited states.

This book is a desirable addition to the library of any group which uses optical equipment for routine analytical or research purposes or which contemplates the purchase of such equipment. For the graduate student it has the virtue that it not only acquaints him with a variety of apparatus but that it also emphasizes the role of theory in the making and interpretation of optical measurements. Format, composition and binding reflect credit on the publisher.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

MILTON BURTON

**Radiocarbon Dating. Second Edition.** BY WILLARD F. LIBBY, with a chapter by Frederick Johnson. University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois. 1955. ix + 175 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price, \$4.50.

The earlier edition which appeared in the fall of 1951 has been ably reviewed by A. D. Bliss, *THIS JOURNAL*, **75**, 6087 (1953).

Libby's book shows, in a fascinating manner, the universality of science, for seldom can a better example be found to illustrate how advances in one science open new vistas in even remote fields. Who would have expected a few years ago that advances in atomic and cosmic ray science would generate a dependable and highly popular dating method for archaeology and geology. Libby's radiocarbon dating method was so fruitful that special dating laboratories were set up not only in this country but also in Europe and Australia.

The new edition covers essentially the subject of the first edition, but it brings it up to date. In view of the great interest in the dating method, various improvements have been made to increase its accuracy and historical time range.

Instead of Libby's solid carbon, gas counting techniques have been developed. Acetylene as a counter gas was introduced by H. E. Suess in this country and by A. R. Crathorn in England. Carbon dioxide gas, which is simpler to prepare, is being investigated by O. Haxel in Germany, by C. J. Fergusson in New Zealand, and by Brannon, Taggart and Williams in this country.

Chapter VI, on radiocarbon dates, has been greatly expanded and now occupies 64 pages, but includes only dates determined in Libby's laboratory. Since Libby's book is likely to become a classic on the radiocarbon dating method,

it may be suggested that a future edition should include the radiocarbon dating lists obtained by J. Laurence Kulp (of the Lamont Geological Observatory of Columbia University), H. E. Suess (of the U. S. Geological Survey) and others.

Chapter VII by Frederick Johnson, is the most interesting one for the intelligent layman. Here the significance of radiocarbon dating for archeology and particularly for American archeology, so bare of historic events, is discussed in detail. Possible pitfalls of the method and misinterpretations are explained.

A suggestion for the future may be permitted this reviewer. The present method, based on counters, covers a historical range of thirty to forty thousand years. Evidently those interested in extending this range have lost sight of the fact that in our original research (*Phys. Rev.*, **72**, 931 (1947)), cosmic radiocarbon was isotopically enriched by a factor of 260 in order to establish its existence. Since a 1000-fold enrichment is readily achievable, the dating method could be extended to cover an *added range of about 50,000 years*. The advantage of the isotopic method is that it is self-tracing since the parallel  $C^{13}$  enrichment is a reliable guide for the  $C^{14}$  concentration.

When this reviewer first suggested the existence of cosmic radioelements (*THIS JOURNAL*, **56**, 1922 (1934)), he did not expect that so many of them would be detected in so straightforward a manner. The discovery of radiocarbon stimulated that of cosmic tritium, in 1950, with its numerous applications in climatology, meteorology and oceanography. Recently Libby's assistant, J. R. Arnold, detected cosmic  $Be^8$  (53 days half-life) and subsequently evidence has been presented for cosmic species of sulfur, chlorine and argon. Thus, in conclusion, this reviewer would like to express the hope that Willard Libby's pioneer book on radiocarbon be followed by one on the broader subject of all cosmic radioelements.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY  
4150 HENRY AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA 44, PENNA. A. V. GROSSE

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

November 10, 1955—December 10, 1955

- J. N. BRØNSTED. "Principles and Problems in Energetics." Translated from the Danish by R. P. Bell. Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. 1955. 119 pp. \$3.50.
- T. L. CAIRNS, Editor-in-Chief. "Organic Syntheses." Volume 35. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. 1955. 122 pp. \$3.75.
- KENNETH DENBIGH. "The Principles of Chemical Equilibrium, with Applications in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering." Cambridge University Press (American Branch), 32 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y. 1955. 491 pp. \$7.50.
- M. HAISSINSKY (Editor). "Actions Chimiques et Biologiques des Radiations." First Series. I. "Aspects Physiques de la Radiobiologie." By L. H. Gray. II. "Chimie des Radiations des Solutions Aqueuses, Aspects Actuels des Résultats Expérimentaux." III. "Modern Trends in Radiation Biochemistry." By W. M. Dale. Masson et Cie., Éditeurs, Libraires de l'Académie de Médecine, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris VI, France. 1955. 252 pp. 2.800 Fr.
- R. H. F. MANSKE (edited by). "The Alkaloids. Chemistry and Physiology." Volume V. Pharmacology. Academic Press, Inc., Publishers, 125 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y. 1955. 388 pp. \$9.50.
- HENRY McILWAIN. "Biochemistry and the Central Nervous System." Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts. 1955. 272 pp. \$9.50.
- VUKIC M. MICOVIC AND MIHALO LJ. MIHALOVIC. "Lithium Aluminum Hydride in Organic Chemistry." Monographs. Volume CCXXXVII. Section for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. No. 9. Edited by Kosta V. Petkovic. Servian Academy of Sciences, Knez Mihailova 35, Beograd, Yugoslavia. 1955. 193 pp. \$3.00.
- EMIL OTT, HAROLD M. SPURLIN, AND MILDRED W. GRAFFLIN (edited by). High Polymers. Volume V. Part III. "Cellulose and Cellulose Derivatives." Second Completely Revised and Augmented Edition. Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. 1955. 1057-1601 pp. \$12.00.
- ALBERTE PULLMAN AND BERNARD PULLMAN. "Cancérisation par les Substances Chimiques et Structure Moléculaire." Masson et Cie, Éditeurs, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris VI, France. 1955. 306 pp. 2.800 Fr.
- HOWARD E. SWANSON, NANCY T. GILFRICH AND GEORGE M. UGRINIC. "Standard X-Ray Diffraction Powder Patterns." National Bureau of Standards Circular 539. Volume V. Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 1955. 75 pp. \$0.45.
- G. VALENSI, Editor-in-Chief. "Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the International Committee for Electrochemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics." Butterworths Scientific Publications, 88 Kingsway, London, W. C. 2, England. 1955. 567 pp. 84s.
- GEORGE WILLARD WHELAND. "Resonance in Organic Chemistry." John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. 1955. 846 pp. \$15.00.
- R. T. WILLIAMS (organized and edited by). "The Biochemistry of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>." Biochemical Society Symposia No. 13. Cambridge University Press (American Branch), 32 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y. 1955. 123 pp. \$3.75.
- J. YARWOOD. "High Vacuum Technique. Theory Practice, Industrial Applications and Properties of Materials." Third Edition. Revised. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. 1955. 208 pp. \$5.50.