

Progress in Stereochemistry. Volume 2. By W. KLYNE, M.A., D.Sc., Ph.D., Reader in Biochemistry, University of London (Postgraduate Medical School), and P. B. D. DE LA MARE, Ph.D., D.Sc., Reader in Chemistry (University College), University of London. Academic Press Inc., Publishers, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y. 1958. vii + 323 pp. 15.5 × 25 cm. Price, \$8.80.

An idea of the scope of this interesting and stimulating book can be given most easily by a survey of the titles and authors of the individual chapters: Crystallography and Stereochemistry, by J. C. Speakman; The Stereochemistry of Homolytic Processes, by G. H. Williams; The Stereochemistry of Displacements at Unsaturated Centres, by P. B. D. de la Mare; Steric Effects on Mesomerism, by B. M. Wepster; The Study of Optically Labile Compounds, by M. M. Harris; The Stereochemistry of the Group V Elements, by F. G. Mann; Steric Factors in Immunochemistry, by J. R. Marrack and E. S. Orlans; and The Stereochemistry of Inorganic Molecules and Complex Ions, by R. J. Gillespie and R. S. Nyholm.

As can be seen from the foregoing list, the approach adopted in Volume 2 is similar to that employed earlier in Volume 1. The chief difference is that, in the more recent work, there is a little less emphasis upon general principles like, for example, conformational analysis, and correspondingly more emphasis upon the wealth of factual material that is now available. As a result, the value of the book to the general readers who are primarily interested in the broad outlines of the subject may have been slightly decreased; but its value to the more specialized readers wishing critical analyses of the finer details doubtless has been increased. As a whole, Volume 2 is a worthy successor to its predecessor, and all chemists can look forward with pleasure to any further volumes that may appear later.

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Gazéification et Oxydation des Combustibles. Bases Théoriques et Réalisations Industrielles de la Conversion Oxydante. BY JACQUES NEUNIER, Ancien élève de l'École Polytechnique. Masson et Cie., 120, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris VIe, France. 1958. 550 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm. Price, Broché, 4,500 fr.; Cartonné toile, 5,200 fr.

A brave attempt has been made by Dr. Neunier to interpret the vast technology of the industrial gases in terms of fundamental physical chemistry. The magnitude of his task has made his treatment of the fundamentals of each aspect of the technologies necessarily brief. He does not pretend to lay before his readers the problems of the basic chemistry of combustion and of hydrocarbon pyrolysis but instead has aimed at a comprehensive, rational treatment of existing industrial processes. The work is divided into four parts. The first part is concerned with the oxidative conversion of solid and liquid combustibles to gases. In the second part the author compares the various combustibles such as petroleum, ligno-oils, coal and natural gas. The third part deals with the fundamentals of oxidative conversion in which thermodynamics is employed liberally in interpreting the various aspects of the technology. The fourth part is a systematic treatment of such processes as the Lurgi process for conversion of carbon, water gas manufacture, Winkler's process, the Paninco process, the

Koppers-Totzek process, etc. Students will appreciate the numerous examples of calculations given throughout Part III. An additional feature that is helpful is the liberal use of schematic drawings illustrating the processes described in the last part.

The book will be of considerable importance to the advanced combustion engineering student and the reading of it can be a refreshing experience for the practicing engineer.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

August 10, 1958—September 10, 1958

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E. M. CROOK, Organized and Edited by. "Metals and Enzyme Activity. Biochemical Society Symposium No. 15 held at the University of Leeds on 13 July 1956." Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y. 1958. 102 pp. \$3.75.

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F. F. NORD, Edited by. "Advances in Enzymology and Related Subjects of Biochemistry." Volume XX. Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. 1958. 488 pp. \$12.50.

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ARNOLD H. SPARROW, JOHN P. BINNINGTON AND VIRGINIA POND. "Bibliography on the Effects of Ionizing Radiations on Plants. 1896-1955." Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. Available from Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. 1958. 222 pp. \$2.25.