the text and by means of four charts. Few errors have been found; all are unimportant or self-evident.

Apart from its sure value and utility for pyrometer users, the book warrants the attention of all seriously concerned with thermal radiation. Although the book does not contain class problems, its clarity and thoroughness are such that it could well serve for instruction of students.

HEAT TRANSFER SECTION
BUILDING RESEARCH DIVISION H. E. ROBINSON
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Biochimie Comparée des Acides Aminés Basiques. Colloques Internationaux du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Concarneau, 1–5 Julliet, 1959. XCII. By Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 15 Quai Anatole France, Paris 7, France. 1960. 436 pp. 16.5 × 24 cm. Price, 45 NF.

This volume contains the proceedings of a small international conference limited to twenty-seven participants and held at Concarneau, France, in July, 1959.

Following two general contributions (amino acid oxidases (A. Meister) and enzymatic transamination (A. Braunstein)), the contents proceed with a varied group of discussions of the metabolism and enzymology of lysine, histidine, arginine, and their metabolic relatives. The presentations are for the most part brief reviews, sometimes comprehensive (*e.g.*, degradation of ornithine, lysine and hydroxylysine (P. Boulanger), histidine metabolism (A. Mehler), biological role of guanido compounds (N. V. Thoai)) and sometimes considerably more restricted (*e.g.*, octopine metabolism (N. V. Thoai and Y. Robin), metabolic products of arginine in plant tissue culture (H. Duranton), γ-guanidobutyrate degradation in fish liver (R. Baret, M. Mourgue, A. Broc)). Two sections of technical interest summarize methods for electrophoretic and chromatographic separation and measurement of basic amino acids (G. Biserte and R. Osteux), and methods for the analysis and preparation of guanido compounds (Y. Robin, N. V. Thoai, J. Roche and L. Pradel). There is no systematic or unifying emphasis on comparative biochemistry, as the title might suggest, but the mass of material reviewed inevitably includes biochemical studies based on higher plants, bacteria, invertebrates and mammals.

The book contains little if any information that has not by this time appeared in print elsewhere. Its chief value would appear to be the convenient provision of a variety of compact and authoritative reviews emphasizing material of current interest over a broad range of topics under the general title. Extensive literature references and many figures and tables (particularly in the methods sections) assist this service; a general index would also have been useful.

The proceedings are chiefly in French (reflecting the predominance of French participants), only six of the twenty-two contributions— comprising about one-fifth of the volume— being in English; brief English summaries, however, precede each presentation. An attractive feature is the inclusion of discussion which followed many of the talks.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY
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Style Guide for Chemists. By LOUIS F. FIESER, Sheldon Emery Professor of Organic Chemistry, Harvard University, and MARY FIESER, Research Fellow in Chemistry, Harvard University. Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 430 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. 1960. vi + 116 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price, $2.95.

Late in 1959 Louis F. Fieser received the James F. Norris Award of the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society for his distinguished services to the teaching of chemistry, and this little book is an excellent example of one phase of his wide contribution to teaching. In his acceptance address on that occasion, his reminiscences on the Fiesers' experiences in writing and editing gave ample background support for their decision to write a book on helping the chemist to write. It is common knowledge to all chemistry teachers that "Johnny and Janey" cannot compose good English; this literary deficiency has its roots in the first grade of school and they continue to be stunted by the malnutrition of insufficient experience, practice and drill in reading, chirography, spelling and composition from elementary level to the end of high school. At college age the science instructor can do little to improve the situation other than by helpful advice and detailed criticism of the student's essays and examinations; for this the Fiesers have provided extremely valuable assistance in their "Style Guide for Chemists."

The wish to do good writing comes from within, and the ability only from doing, re-doing and doing some more, but the thoughtful and observant would-be writer can help himself by noting the countless large and small examples to be found in this book and others. "Style Guide for Chemists" is organized in thirteen chapters: some are very short and bluntly instructive (Chapter 6, for example), while others require more space for their broader range of details and applications. Reviewing a textbook often is easy but not so a laboratory manual. This book somewhat resembles the latter, but its preparative descriptions are more easily reviewable. "Concise Writing" (Ch. 1) with its do's and don'ts leads along into "Coherence," which means "connectedness of thought." Every chemist writer should read his own scribblings aloud into a tape recorder, play it back into his own ears, and then apply the Fiesers' Principles of Coherence. "Verbs" come next, transitive, intransitive, active, passive, verbs of action, infinitives, participles and other forms and usages. "Singular and Plural Form" receives attention, also the "Possessive Singular," and the production and loss of "Emphasis." A relatively long chapter is given to "Choice of Words," with many examples (even to Latin borrowings and manufactured verbs), and one almost as long to "Punctuation" (a good addition here would have been a paragraph showing writer and typist how punctuation marks should appear in a manuscript). "Style," a broad and somewhat indefinable quality of composition, is considered briefly, with varied advice to the writer, and contrasts sharply in theme with "Style Sheet," the next chapter. A writer has his literary "Style," a journal or publisher its "Style Sheet," the latter meaning that large and varied collection of seemingly picayune details in which consistency of usage is considered a publishing virtue. Some style details are of general application in good writing and printing and others are fairly specific to the various fields of learning; the Fiesers have collected and classified in twelve pages a host of style details. The topic and content of Chapter 11 on "Proof" does not appear in many style manuals, but it is the rare writer who does not have to read and check his own proofs, and most writers need adult education in the art and science of proof-reading. Skill and sureness in this field come only by long experience, but the four pages here are a good general introduction. "Pronunciation," and "Speaking," too, might be considered to be outside the bounds of a style manual, but oral reading (almost a lost art nowadays) is a wonderful adjunct to fluent composition, and wrong pronunciation renders both reading and speaking painful to audience and lecturer (six pages of text, fifteen of words, then five of text are given to these two topics).

There are available many Manuals of Style, written for various publishing organizations or fields of composition, all of them serving a useful purpose. "Style Guide for Chemists" is "a book written by chemists for chemists." A single reading of it will not convert a semi-literate chemist into a polished writer, but repeated reading of it, as well as consultation and application of its solid and instructive ninety-seven pages, certainly cannot fail to improve the literary work of the members of our profession. May its influence extend through many editions.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
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Gmelins Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie. Achte Völlig Neu Bearbeitete Auflage. Sauerstoff. Lieferung 4. System Nummer 3. Edited by E. H. ERICH PIETSCH. Verlag Chemie, G.m.b.H., Pappelallee 3, Weinheim/Bergstr., Germany. 1960. xv + 366 pp. 17.5 × 25.5 cm. Price, Kart. DM. 223.—.

This volume on oxygen deals with air, active oxygen and ozone. The literature has been thoroughly surveyed through 1949.