

ORGANIC REACTIONS, VOL. XII, Arthur C. Cope, Editor-in-Chief (John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 538 pp., 1962, \$13.00). Volume XII contains five chapters with the following titles and authors:

- (1) "Cyclobutane Derivatives from Thermal Cycloaddition Reactions," by John D. Roberts and Clay M. Sharts.
- (2) "The Preparation of Olefins by the Pyrolysis of Xanthates. The Chugaev Reaction," by Harold R. Nace.
- (3) "The Synthesis of Aliphatic and Alicyclic Nitro Compounds," by Nathan Kornblum.
- (4) "Synthesis of Peptides with Mixed Anhydrides," by Noel F. Albertson.
- (5) "Desulfurization with Raney Nickel," by George R. Petit and Eugene E. van Tamelen.

The format of this volume does not differ from preceding volumes. Each chapter surveys a reaction in detail, giving the scope, mechanism, limitations, modifications, experimental details, specific examples, and references to all the pertinent literature.

For the chemist contemplating work in any of these five areas, this book is undoubtedly the best starting point. Even though the area might be completely unfamiliar to this chemist, the reading of the particular chapter will give a good feeling for what this procedure can or cannot accomplish. The literature has been surveyed with sufficient completeness so that further searching is unnecessary, with the exception of the literature from the time the particular survey was completed (usually 1959 or 1960) to the present time. The tables in each chapter, arranged for rapid and convenient use, list all compounds that have been prepared by the procedure and also include yield data (when available), comments on reagents and reaction conditions, and references.

This book is also useful to those people actively working in any of the areas covered, for each chapter pulls together all the scattered references, giving a good, critical review of the progress made on each subject, as seen through the eyes of an established expert. Conflicts in the literature are pointed out and some attempt is made to rectify them. It is often easy for a research chemist to lose sight of important trends and new developments in his own area, simply because of his intense concentration on the minute details of his work, which is only a small segment of a broader field. Reading the appropriate chapter in this volume should be a good way to avoid such a pitfall.

This reviewer has recommended this book to two widely differing potential users—the person with little or no knowledge of an area, and the person actively working in the area. He also recommends it to all other chemists who work in fields not covered by Volume XII of Organic Reactions. This book provides one of the quickest ways to broaden one's knowledge by learning about an unfamiliar branch of organic chemistry. Most of these chapters can be read in a few hours, and the amount of information that can be gained in that time is sufficient to give at least a "talking" knowledge of that particular subject.

In summary, this book is well-written, excellently arranged and referenced, and fills a continuing and growing need of all chemists to have the countless branches of organic chemistry periodically reviewed in a critical manner, so that the pertinent, individual contributions that go into the advancement of an area are not lost in the voluminous literature with which every chemist is faced.

TED J. LOGAN
The Procter & Gamble Company
Cincinnati, Ohio

PAINT TESTING MANUAL, Physical and Chemical Examination of Paints, Varnishes, Lacquers and Colors, by Henry A. Gardner and George G. Sward (Gardner Laboratory, P. O. Box 5728, Bethesda 14, Maryland, 550 pages, March 1962, \$19.00 domestic, \$21.00 foreign). This is the 12th edition of the well-known manual on paint testing, which has often been referred to as the "Paint Bible." The book consists of 25 chapters and an index, covering methods of testing paints and other coatings, and also the

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raw materials used in their manufacture.

Those familiar with previous editions of this Manual will not be surprised by the present edition. Although it has been brought up to date, the style and format have not changed significantly from previous issues.

This is not a source for one who needs guidance as to which test method should be used. The coverage is as complete as the authors could make it, but is in no way critical, and old and outdated methods received the same treatment as the most modern procedures. However, as a source for test methods it is unequaled in the paint industry and, as far as this reviewer knows, in any other industry. It has sometimes been said of certain newspapers, "Often dull, but never incomplete." Whether this book is dull or not depends on the interests of the reader, but he can be sure that it is not incomplete.

FRANCIS SCOFIELD
National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association
Washington, D. C.

PAINT TECHNOLOGY MANUALS—Part 2—Solvents, oils, Resins and Driers, Editors-in-Chief: C.J.A. Taylor and S. Marks, published on behalf of Oil & Colour Chemists' Association (Chapman and Hall Ltd., London; Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York, 239 pages, March 29, 1962, \$7.50). This is the second in a series of manuals designed by the Oil & Colour Chemists' Association, primarily as texts for a course leading to a final examination in the subject of paint technology. Seven chapters are devoted to:

1. Bitumens and Pitches
2. Driers
3. Synthetic Resins: Hard Oil-Soluble Types
4. Natural Resins
5. Oils: I
6. Oils: II
7. Solvents

The modern technology as interpreted by the British is summarized excellently and each chapter concludes with certain suggested experiments in the area and a list of selected references.

This book should be of considerable use to someone desirous of understanding the technical background of the general coatings industry.

FRANCIS SCOFIELD
National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association
Washington, D. C.

Subcommittees Meet . . .

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Colorimetry of Transparent Materials, has in the past year, been confined to the preparation of an interim report designed to put into writing all of the work which has been done by the Subcommittee up to the present time. This report was discussed in detail. The Committee recommended at this session that the completed interim report be submitted to the ISCC as a report of the Subcommittee with the recommendation that publication with suitable editorial revisions be authorized.

AOCS Sets Color Glass Standards

The AOCS Color Committee held two meetings during the 1961 year. These were held at the time of the AOCS Conventions. During the year, satisfactory agreement was reached on color glass standards to be obtained from the Lovibond Tintometer Ltd. will furnish to the oil industry standardized glasses to meet the AOCS Tintometer scale. Tolerances for these glasses have been established and certified standard glass sets are held, one at the Bureau of Standards, and one at Tintometer Ltd. in England. This work completes the solution to a problem which has faced the ISCC for a number of years.