

Publications

Book review

Chemistry and Technology of Water-Soluble Polymers, edited by C.A. Finch (Plenum Press Corp., 233 Spring St., New York, NY 10013, 1983, 358 pp., \$55 U.S. and Canada, 20% higher elsewhere).

World production of water-soluble polymers is estimated at over 5 million tons per year but this is uncertain and variable depending on definitions, especially when foods are included. Their uses include paper coating, textile sizing, detergent production, water treatment and oil well drilling. Thus, they have a significant impact on our daily life.

This volume is a version of a course manual used at Newnham College, Cambridge University, England. There are 19 chapters prepared by the 14 tutors. The general objectives are: to summarize and systematize what is known about the properties and behavior of water-soluble polymers; to review the present state of the scientific basis of this knowledge and place it into a general theoretical framework; and to bridge the gaps which currently divide these scientific principals from the application technology of the materials. Most of the authors modestly conclude that scientific knowledge of these polymers is quite limited. Nevertheless, anyone reading this book would likely con-

clude that a great deal is known and that their objectives are substantially achieved.

The first chapter presents the background information on the types and most common examples with their applications, functions, properties and behavior. The tables present group type, names, acronyms, structure of monomer units, common methods of synthesis and special features. Other chapters discuss rheological characterization, polymerization methods, chemical crosslinking and modification, thermoreversible gelation, solution thermodynamics, fractionation and characterization, hydration effects, and stabilization of disperse systems. Chapters on applications include medical and pharmaceutical, oil recovery, flocculation, and some specialized properties of polyvinyl alcohol and possible uses. The index is outstanding. There are more than a few typos and one of the acronyms is not standardized throughout, but these are minor criticisms.

The book is recommended to all those involved in polymer science with a need to increase their knowledge of water-soluble polymers.

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Industry News

SDA topics

Papers on biodegradation of detergent chemicals and on current Soap and Detergent Association research are scheduled to be presented during the annual meeting of the Soap and Detergent Association Jan. 26-29, 1984, in Boca Raton, Florida.

Dr. Robert J. Larson of Procter & Gamble will speak on "Biodegradation of Detergent Chemicals in Groundwater/Subsurface Systems." Drs. Keith A. Booman, SDA technical director, and Nicholas L. Clesceri, professor of environmental engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, will report on "Current SDA Research on Environmental and Human Health Topics." For the past year, Dr. Clesceri has been on sabbatical working with SDA.

Other topics during the meeting will include perfume fundamentals and electronic marketing. The SDA meeting usually also includes several speakers from the Washington, D.C., area. Scheduled to appear this year is Rep. Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, D-Massachusetts, the speaker of the House of Representatives. Further information is available from The

Soap and Detergent Association, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

A. I. D. Registration

February 28, 1984, is the registration deadline for persons wishing to attend the surfactants meeting to be held March 21-23, 1984, on Tenerife under sponsorship of the Asociacion de Investigacion de la Industria Espanols de Detergentes, (A.I.D.) Tensionactivos ys Alfines and the Institute de Tecnologia Quimica Y Textil del C.S.I.C. de Barcelona.

Topics for the meeting will include new development in surfactants and detergents, physical chemistry, applications, biodegradability and government regulation.

Registration fee for nonmembers of A.I.D. is 14,000 pesetas before Jan. 15; 16,000 after that date (approximately U.S. \$95-\$105). Registration, housing forms and further information are available from the Asociacion de Investigacion de Detergentes (A.I.D.), Edificio Juan de la Cierva, Jorge Girona Salgado Str., Barcelona 34, Spain (Telex 97977).