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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597274>

“Reviews in Macromolecular Chemistry”

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To cite this Article Wiley, Richard(1967) “Reviews in Macromolecular Chemistry”, Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A, 1: 3, 563 – 564

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10601326708053991

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10601326708053991>

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JOURNAL REVIEW

"Reviews in Macromolecular Chemistry"

One major objective of the editors and publishers of *Reviews in Macromolecular Chemistry* (Vol. 1, No. 1, of which appeared in 1966)* is to provide prompt publication of timely topics in polymer science and technology. This objective is to be met in part by the publication of reviews which cover certain recent chronological periods and reflect the author's expertise. The review on poly(alkylene oxides), which covers the 1963-1964 period by A. E. Gurgiolo (Dow, Freeport) illustrates the values in such an approach. A total review of this field is obviously going to be voluminous and require a lengthy publication lag. Even for the period covered, 352 references have been assembled. This was obviously a period of intense activity, well worth selection for review. Sixty pages are devoted to catalysis and the coordination chemistry that has been proposed to explain stereoregular processes, mechanisms, and catalysis. Copolymerization physical properties, degradation, and applications are covered in another fifty pages. The reader is presented with a timely evaluation of the directions in which the field is moving.

The review (48 pages) on polymethanes by Donald J. Lyman (Stanford Research Institute) is addressed to the synthetic polymer chemist who desires to learn how to make well-characterized linear polymethanes for fundamental studies. Any such contribution must be treated with respect in view of the multitude of synthesis variables which must be controlled precisely in these polymerizations. The synthesis of diisocyanates, their reactions with glycols and other active hydrogen compounds, their dimerization and trimerization, catalysis of their reactions, and the interfacial reactions of bis-chloroformates with diamines are discussed in general terms. Synthesis of copolymers of the Spandex type are described very briefly. The over-all treatment is rather general and does not in-

* *Editor's note:* The title of *Reviews in Macromolecular Chemistry* has been changed in 1967 to *Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part C, Reviews*.

clude experimental details of the type so important to the synthetic polymer chemist.

The review (37 pages) by K. F. O'Driscoll (Buffalo) and T. Yonezawa (Kyoto) of the application of molecular orbital theory to vinyl polymerization is designed to present the necessary steps involved in an MO description of the vinyl polymerization and copolymerization reactions. This subject is covered, but only more or less briefly, in most of the texts on molecular orbital theory and quantum organic chemistry. It is most helpful to have this more detailed analysis available. It is a subject which certainly deserves timely treatment by polymer chemists. This statement will be authoritative for many years to come and is invaluable to the polymer chemist.

The list of papers to appear in issues subsequent to No. 1 is impressive. At this writing No. 2 has also appeared and the contribution therein by D. J. Lyman on biopolymers is uniquely valuable. The editors are to be congratulated on having inaugurated this new review journal in a way which promises a very high level contribution. Every chemical library must have this journal. Many individuals will want to have it at hand.

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