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Introduction

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Symposium on Polymeric Cations

INTRODUCTION

Research in polymer chemistry in recent years has been directed to a large degree toward the synthesis and investigation of the properties of polymers having unusual functional groups attached. This "polymer specialty" area includes polymers having cationic sites, either as part of the main polymer chain or as pendant groups. This symposium and the papers published herein deal with cationic polymers and some of the applications for which such polymers are being investigated. The potential use of cationic polymers in such areas as flocculation and electrical conduction, has generated much interest and activity in both synthesis of novel types of cationic polymers and investigation of their properties. Work in the latter area ranges from fundamental studies of the solution properties to a wide variety of evaluation tests to determine their utility in specific applications.

The major sources of cationic sites in polymers are through introduction of amine, quaternary ammonium, phosphonium, or sulfonium sites along the polymer chain. This issue includes papers dealing with all of these types, along with leading references to the literature in each case. In addition, an extensive literature survey on cationic quaternary polyelectrolytes, having a total of 375 references, is published herein. This constitutes perhaps the most extensive survey of the literature in this area ever compiled.

As chairman of the symposium, I would like to extend thanks to the Division of Polymer Chemistry, American Chemical Society, the primary sponsor, and the Division of Organic Coatings and Plastics Chemistry, American Chemical Society, the co-sponsor, for their support in organizing the Symposium, to the speakers and their co-authors for their participation, and to Professor Harry P. Gregor of Columbia University for presiding at one of the sessions.

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