

Book Review

MIREILLE HARMELIN: *La thermo-analyse*. Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1968. p. 121. (Series "Que sais-je?", No. 1318)

The Que sais-je series is one of the best series of scientific pocketbooks always containing substantial information concerning various fields of science in concise form. The main reason for the popularity of the series may be that all the books are written by well-known experts in a particular field, who are also good writers. This is the case with the present book, too.

Thermal analysis, although having a history of about one hundred years, became a generally used technique only some decades ago. Now thermal analysis is an important method which is not only used in analytical chemistry but also in structure elucidation, inorganic, organic and biochemistry, solid state physics and in other fields of pure and applied research. Owing

to the general applicability of the method it is important for people who are working in other fields of science to understand its theory and equipment.

In her book, Mireille Harmelin has given a description of the methods of thermal analysis which, besides being clear, is brief and concise. The principles, theoretical backgrounds and the most important equipment of thermogravimetry, differential thermal analysis, thermal gas-analysis, dilatometry and thermomagnetic measurements are dealt with. In the first part of the book more examples of the application of the method are given than in later chapters.

Such successfully written books are always very important in the penetration of the methods of a particular field into other fields of research. Mireille Harmelin's book seems to serve this purpose very well.

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