

TABLES FOR CHEMICAL CALCULATIONS, WITH EXPLANATIONS AND ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES. BY HORACE L. WELLS. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1903. pp. v+58.

“This little book has been prepared to facilitate chemical calculations by the use of logarithms.. Too often this work is done by the laborious process of simple multiplication and division, in which, to save labor, the use of roughly approximate atomic weights is too prevalent in cases which deserve more accurate treatment.”

This extract from the preface indicates the character of the work. It includes, besides a table of five-place logarithms, the usual tables of factors for gravimetric and gas analysis, metallurgical factors and factors for indirect analysis, atomic and formula-weights. The feature of the work is the introduction of its logarithm after each factor and after each formula-weight, thus saving the greater part of the time usually spent in hunting up logarithms. The factors are those most frequently used in inorganic analysis, and no attempt is made to invade the field of proximate organic analysis. All factors have been calculated at least three times independently. The book should prove extremely useful. It is suggested that as it is likely to be used much on the laboratory desk, a future edition might well be bound in a water-proof cover of some material like oil-cloth.

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A SCHEME FOR THE DETECTION OF THE MORE COMMON CLASSES OF CARBON COMPOUNDS. BY FRANK E. WESTON, B.Sc., F.C.S., Lecturer in Chemistry at the Polytechnic, Regent Street. London and New York: Longmans, Green and Co. 1904. pp. viii+56.

The publication of this book is evidence of the fact that teachers of chemistry are beginning to realize that the laboratory training of students of organic chemistry should consist of more than practice in ultimate analysis and in the preparation of organic compounds. A working knowledge of the science requires not only experience in these parts of the subject, but also a facility in identifying unknown compounds by means of their characteristic reactions. It is to help the student in his study of this important part of the subject that this book is written.

A number of sections of the book are devoted to describing the general methods used. An account of the action of the various classes of compounds with such reagents as water, potassium