

The percentages of the saturated acids and their glycerides in the original oil have been calculated from the analytical data with the preceding results.

Summary.

The chemical characteristics of 4 samples of cold pressed okra seed oil have been determined. These oils vary slightly in composition. An exhaustive study has been made on the composition of the recently expressed oil No. 4, the results of which are given in the following table:

Glycerides of.	%.
Palmitic acid.....	27.23
Stearic acid.....	2.75
Arachidic acid.....	0.05
Oleic acid.....	43.74
Linolic acid.....	26.62
Unsaponifiable matter.....	0.37

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NEW BOOK.

The Condensed Chemical Dictionary. Compiled and edited by the Editorial Staff of the Chemical Engineering Catalog, of which F. M. TURNER, JR., is Technical Editor and D. D. BEROLZHEIMER, W. P. CUTTER and JOHN HELFRICH are Assistant Editors. The Chemical Catalog Company, Inc., 1 Madison Ave., New York, 1919. 525 pp. \$5.00 net.

The title page of this useful book describes it as being "a reference volume for all requiring quick access to a large amount of essential data regarding chemicals and other substances used in manufacturing and laboratory work." While it is intended primarily to supply in readily available form the outstanding facts regarding such substances to people not chemically trained who are being brought into contact with the chemical industries in greater numbers with the growing importance of these industries, the book will serve as a great time-saver for the chemist who keeps it at hand.

Many substances of scientific interest but not important commercially have been omitted. Therein lies the chief significance of the word "condensed" in the title for, although it is stated that no attempt has been made to produce an exhaustive work, the field of commercially important chemical substances, excepting dyes, appears to have been pretty thoroughly covered.

Under the various headings information is given, with such variations as the nature of the substances may require, on derivation, habitat, color and other properties (restricted to those properties likely to be of commercial importance), constants, method of purification, grades, containers, uses, impurities, fire hazard, railroad shipping regulations and occasionally other information. Under "Derivation" a general idea of the method of

manufacture is given in the case of substances which are not natural products.

At the back of the book are to be found tables of (1) atomic weights (the title of this strictly atomic weight table is misleading; it reads "Combining (Atomic) Weights"), (2) domestic weights and measures, (3) metric equivalents, (4) equivalent temperature readings for Fahrenheit and Centigrade scales, and (5) specific gravity equivalents for degrees Baumé, and, in addition, a list of definitions of units and information regarding the transportation by freight of dangerous articles other than explosives.

The thorough manner in which the dictionary is cross-indexed is a most valuable feature. It is a well-known and unfortunate fact that a great many chemical substances have several used names. Cross-references direct the user of the dictionary to the name which has been given the preference. By this means the dictionary will do good service in helping users to ascertain the meaning of more or less obscure names. It seems as though considerable space might have been saved without loss by the use of an occasional general cross-index entry to replace a series of like ones. For example, a single brief note under the heading "Oils" explaining how oils have been handled might have replaced over 5 pages of cross-index entries starting with the word "Oil."

In a dictionary prepared chiefly for those interested in the commercial side of chemistry it is perhaps to be expected that the nomenclature will be influenced by commercial usage, which does not always agree with the usage best from theoretical considerations. One gets the impression in looking through the Condensed Chemical Dictionary that the compilers have in general tried to use for a compound the name to be preferred from a scientific standpoint when a commercial name which is different is not too predominately in use. This seems to be a reasonable attitude. It is hard to pass by, however, without expressing a hope for at least one change, namely, that some day in the dictionary, the trade and more generally elsewhere the name "hydroxy" instead of "oxy" will be adopted for the OH group in compounds. And it goes against the grain a bit to see thiocyanates (-CNS) called "sulfocyanides." The new official names for certain licensed synthetic pharmaceuticals now manufactured in this country, such as "barbital," have not been given preference over the names of the German products ("veronal" in the example just given). The spelling follows the rules set forth in "Directions for Assistant Editors and Abstractors" of Chemical Abstracts.

No abbreviations have been used. To many this will no doubt appeal as being a satisfying departure from the usual practice in dictionaries; to others it will probably seem that a good deal of space should have been saved by the use of some of the more common abbreviations at least,

as sp. gr. for specific gravity. The spacing between the entries and at the bottom of the page is such as to leave a little room for memoranda.

An interesting feature of the dictionary is the designation by marking with an asterisk of all of those substances now made in America. It is pleasant to note so many asterisks.

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