

# American Chemical Society Monographs

By arrangement with the Interallied Conference of Pure and Applied Chemistry, which met in London and Brussels in July, 1919, the American Chemical Society was to undertake the production and publication of Scientific and Technologic Monographs on chemical subjects. At the same time it was agreed that the National Research Council, in cooperation with the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society, should undertake the production and publication of Critical Tables of Chemical and Physical Constants. The American Chemical Society and the National Research Council mutually agreed to care for these two fields of chemical development. The American Chemical Society named as Trustees, to make the necessary arrangements for the publication of the monographs, Charles L. Parsons, Secretary of the American Chemical Society, Washington, D. C.; John E. Teeple, Treasurer of the American Chemical Society, New York City; and Professor Gellert Alleman of Swarthmore College. The trustees have arranged for the publication of the American Chemical Society series of (a) Scientific and (b) Technologic Monographs by the Chemical Catalog Company of New York City.

The Council, acting through the Committee on National Policy of the American Chemical Society, appointed the editors, named at the close of this introduction, to have charge of securing authors, and of considering critically the manuscripts prepared. The editors of each series will endeavor to select topics which are of current interest and authors who are recognized as authorities in their respective fields.

The development of knowledge in all branches of science, and especially in chemistry, has been so rapid during the last fifty years and the fields covered by this development have been so varied that it is difficult for any individual to keep in touch with the progress in branches of science outside his own specialty. In spite of the facilities for the examination of the literature given by Chemical Abstracts and such compendia as Beilstein's *Handbuch der Organischen Chemie*, Richter's *Lexikon*, Ostwald's *Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Chemie*, Abegg's and Gmelin-Kraut's *Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie*, and the English and French Dictionaries of Chemistry, it often takes a great deal of time to coördinate the knowledge available upon a single topic. Consequently when men who have spent years in the study of important subjects are willing to coördinate their knowledge and present it in concise, readable form, they perform a service of the highest value to their fellow chemists.

It was with a clear recognition of the usefulness of reviews of this character that a Committee of the American Chemical Society recommended the publication of the two series of monographs under the auspices of the Society.

Two rather distinct purposes are to be served by these monographs. The first purpose, whose fulfilment will probably render to chemists in general the most important service, is to present the knowledge available upon the chosen topic in a readable form, intelligible to those whose activities may be in a wholly different line. Many chemists fail to realize how closely their investigations may be connected with other work which on the surface appears far afield from their own. These monographs will enable such men to form closer contact with the work of chemists in other lines of research. The second purpose is to promote research in the branch of science covered by the monograph, by furnishing a well digested survey of the progress already made in that field and by pointing out directions in which investigation needs to be extended. To facilitate the attainment of this purpose, it is intended to include extended references to the literature, which will enable anyone interested to follow up the subject in more detail. If the literature is so voluminous that a complete bibliography is impracticable, a critical selection will be made of those papers which are most important.

The publication of these books marks a distinct departure in the policy of the American Chemical Society, inasmuch as it is a serious attempt to found an American chemical literature without primary regard to commercial considerations. The success of the venture will depend in large part upon the measure of coöperation which can be secured in the preparation of books dealing adequately with topics of general interest; it is earnestly hoped, therefore, that every member of the various organizations in the chemical and allied industries will recognize the importance of the enterprise and take sufficient interest to justify it.

The following monographs have been secured and are now in the process of being written or printed.

"The Animal as a Converter," By Henry Prentiss Armsby, of Pennsylvania State College. About 250 to 300 pages, illustrated. (Ready about September 15.)

"Chemical Effects of Alpha Particles and Electrons," by Samuel C. Lind, of the United States Bureau of Mines. About 150 pages, illustrated. (Ready about April 1.)

"The Chemistry of Enzyme Actions," by K. George Falk, of Columbia University. 140 pages. (Ready January 15.)

"The Properties of Electrically Conducting Systems," by Charles A. Kraus, of Clark University. About 400 pages, illustrated. (Ready about September 15.)

"Carotinoids and Related Pigments: The Chromolipins," by Leroy S. Palmer, of the University of Minnesota. About 200 pages, illustrated. (Ready about May 1.)

"Thyroxin," by E. C. Kendall, of the Mayo Foundation. (Ready about January 1, 1922.)

"The Properties of Silica and the Silicates," by Robert B. Sosman, of the Geophysical Laboratory. About 500 pages, illustrated. (Ready about September 1.)

"Organic Mercury Compounds," by Frank C. Whitmore, of Northwestern University. About 300 pages. (Ready about May 1.)

"Coal Carbonization," by Horace C. Porter, of Philadelphia. About 475 pages, illustrated. (Ready about May 15.)

"The Corrosion of Alloys," by C. G. Fink, of the Chile Exploration Co.

"Industrial Hydrogen," by Hugh S. Taylor, of Princeton University. About 200 pages, illustrated. (Ready about April 1.)

"The Vitamines," by H. C. Sherman, of Columbia University. About 200 pages, illustrated. (Ready about February 1, 1922.)

The Board of Editors is negotiating with other authors, but at this date it is, of course, impossible to predict how many books there will be in the series. The number and the success of the venture will depend in large part upon the measure of coöperation which can be secured and the interest shown in the movement by the members of the various scientific and technical organizations in the chemical and allied industries. The monographs will run from 130 to 600 pages each, 6 by 9 inches in size, bound in stiff covers, in dark blue cloth, stamped in gold.

Unfortunately the prices of the different monographs cannot be fixed at this time, but prices will be kept as low as possible. The size of the edition of each book will vary, but as the number will be limited in each case, early reservations are suggested.

For reasons explained in the "General Introduction," it is earnestly hoped that a *real* interest will be shown in this work so that the Society and the publishers will be encouraged to go on with it until the chemical interests of America have a scientific and technologic literature second to that of no country in the world.

Blanket orders for the entire series may be sent to the Chemical Catalog Company, Inc., 1 Madison Avenue, New York City. Each book in the series will be shipped as soon as published, and billed at the time of shipment.

The Board of Editors for Scientific Series consists of:

WILLIAM A. NOYES, <i>Editor</i> ;	
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