

melting points and references, which have appeared in the literature during the period 1919 to 1950. This part of the project may or may not be valuable enough to justify the effort and space devoted to it. It is difficult to think of a situation in which it could substitute for the original literature. Perhaps a survey which would provide more information about fewer compounds would be more useful.

The insistence of authorities on nomenclature, to which Dr. Hofmann has acceded, on the clumsy 4 (or 5) 5 (or 4) type of nomenclature for N-unsubstituted imidazoles, strikes this reviewer as somewhat irrational, and inconsistent in view of the vast numbers of other structures to which similar alternative names could be applied. (Heaven forbid!)

The volume as a whole is well printed and amply illustrated with structural formulas. It is written with clarity and conciseness. It stands high in a series for which a commendably high standard has been set.

THE WELLCOME RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
TUCKAHOE, N. Y. G. H. HITCHINGS

**Preparative Organische Chemie.** Naturforschung und Medizin in Deutschland 1939-1946. Edited by KARL ZIEGLER, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim (Ruhr). Verlag Chemie, G.m.b.H., Weinheim/Bergstr., Germany, 1954. 15 × 32 cm. Vol. 37, Part II, 300 pp. Price, DM 20,-. Vol. 38, Part III, 352 pp. Price, DM 20,-.

These books are parts of the German publications of the FIAT Review of German Science for 1939-1946 and hence the syntheses reported are limited to work in Germany during these years. Since the titles do not indicate the actual contents, a summary of the subjects covered is of interest.

Part II of Vol. 37 has an excellent discussion of the investigations on organolithium, -sodium, -potassium, -magnesium and -zinc compounds written by G. Wittig and W. Theilacker. Brief chapters on organic dyes (S. Petersen and P. Tust), sugars and their derivatives (O. Th. Schmidt), the strychnos alkaloids (R. Huisgen) and syntheses under physiological conditions (C. Schöpf) are included. A very good summary of investigations on autoxidation describing the formation and reactions of alkyl hydroperoxides and peroxides is given by G. O. Schenck. K. Alder also has an extensive report on diene syntheses. Chapters on organic chromatography (G. Herse) and automatic micro-analytical technique (W. Zimmermann) conclude this part.

The second publication (Vol. 38, Part III) is devoted entirely to work on natural and synthetic polymers carried out in Germany. The chemistry of cellulose is written by H. Staudinger. G. Jayme has contributed a very thorough discussion of the various analyses of woody cellular tissues with particular reference to their examination and use for producing paper pulp.

The polymerization of vinyl compounds by peroxides and oxidation-reduction methods is discussed by W. Kern and is followed by a chapter on emulsion polymerization of butadiene (E. Konrad and W. Becker). The chemistry of copolymers and condensation polymers is reviewed by H. Hopff and H. Spänig and polyurethans are summarized by O. Bayer.

Although these reports are limited to the work in Germany during 1939-1946, they are well written and contain useful information on each of the above topics.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

April 10, 1954—May 10, 1954

A. J. G. BARNETT. "Silage Fermentation." Academic Press, Inc., 125 E. 23 St., New York 10, N. Y., 1954. 208 pp. \$5.00.

OTTO BAYER. Methoden der organischen Chemie (Houben-Weyl). "Sauerstoffverbindungen II, Aldehyde." Volume VII, Part I. Georg Thieme Verlag, (14a) Stuttgart O, Diemershaldenstrasse 47, Germany. 1954. 556 pp. \$19.50.

JESSE P. GREENSTEIN AND ALEXANDER HADDOW, (Edited by). "Advances in Cancer Research." Volume Two. Academic Press, Inc., 125 E. 23 St., New York 10, N. Y. 1954. 530 pp. \$11.00.

H. D. HARTOUGH AND S. L. MEISEL. "Compounds with Condensed Thiophene Rings." Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. 1954. 515 pp. \$16.50.

JOHN L. MAGEE, MARTIN D. KAMEN AND ROBERT L. PLATZMAN, (Edited by). "Physical and Chemical Aspects of Basic Mechanisms in Radiobiology." National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C. 1954. 145 pp. \$1.00.

GUNTHER MATZ. "Die Kristallisation in der Verfahrenstechnik." Springer-Verlag, (1) Berlin W 35, Reichpietschufer 20, West-Berlin, Germany. 1954. 194 pp. Ladenpreis: DM 19.50; Ganzleinen DM 22.50.

GEORGE W. MOREY. "The Properties of Glass." Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y. 1954. 591 pp. \$16.50.

F. HORST MULLER, (Edited by). "Das Relaxationsverhalten der Materie." Verlag Von Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff, Darmstadt, Germany. 1953. 224 pp. DM 24.-.

R. L. MURRAY. "Introduction to Nuclear Engineering." Prentice-Hall, Inc., Publishers, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. 1954. 418 pp. \$9.35.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS. "Energy Transfer in Hot Gases." Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 1954. 126 pp. \$1.50.

KENNETH S. PITZER. "Quantum Chemistry." Prentice-Hall, Inc., Publishers, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. 1953. 529 pp. \$10.00.

WILLIAM H. PETERSON AND FRANK M. STRONG. "General Biochemistry." Prentice-Hall, Inc., Publishers, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. 1953. 469 pp. \$8.65.

A. L. G. REES. "Chemistry of the Defect Solid State." Methuen and Co., Ltd., London, England, and John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y. 1954. 136 pp. \$2.00.

JOSEPH REILLY AND WILLIAM NORMAN RAE. Volume I and Volume II of "Physico-Chemical Methods." D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 1953. Volume I—760 pp., Volume II—800 pp. \$15.00 per volume.

W. H. SEBRELL, JR. AND ROBERT S. HARRIS, (Edited by). "The Vitamins, Chemistry, Physiology, Pathology." Volume I. Academic Press Inc., 125 E. 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y. 1954. 676 pp. \$16.50.

ALEXANDER R. SURREY. "Name Reactions in Organic Chemistry." Academic Press Inc., 125 E. 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y. 1954. 192 pp. \$4.00.

VLADIMIR VAND AND RAY PEPINSKY. "The Statistical Approach to X-Ray Structure Analysis." X-Ray and Crystal Analysis Laboratory, Department of Physics, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania. 1953. 98 pp. \$1.50.