

4. The Sommelet Reaction. By S. J. Angyal; 21 pages, 72 references, 5 pages of tables.

5. The Synthesis of Aldehydes from Carboxylic Acids. By Erich Mosettig; 42 pages, 174 references, 11 pages of tables. Seven methods for this conversion are discussed: hydrolytic decomposition of Reissert's compounds; Grundmann's method *via* the diazoketones and 1,2-glycols; reductive desulfurization of thiol esters; the method of McFayden and Stevens; the method of Sonn and Müller; the method of Stephen; and the controlled reduction of nitriles and amides by action of lithium aluminum hydride.

6. The Metalation Reaction with Organolithium Compounds. By Henry Gilman and John W. Morton, Jr.; 47 pages, 170 references, 14 pages of tables.

7. β -Lactones. By Harold E. Zaugg; 59 pages, 214 references, 28 pages of tables.

8. The Reaction of Diazomethane and its Derivatives with Aldehydes and Ketones. By C. David Gutsche; 66 pages, 217 references, 24 pages of tables.

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LEE IRVIN SMITH

Comprehensive Inorganic Chemistry. Volume Two. Copper, Silver and Gold. By JAMES W. LAIST. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 1954. x + 248 pp. 16 X 23.5 cm. Price, \$5.00.

This is the second in a projected series of eleven volumes. Since volume one was devoted to general considerations of atomic and molecular structure, a treatment of nuclear chemistry, and a chapter on the actinide elements, this is the first volume to disclose by example what the editors (M. Cannon Sneed, J. Lewis Maynard and Robert C. Brasted) have planned for the series. The main objective of the series is announced as, "to present the information most useful and most necessary (pertaining to each group of elements)—within the desirable limits of convenient size and moderate cost."

What is considered to be the most useful and necessary information is indicated in part by the editors' further statement that "in this series emphasis has been placed largely on chemical properties and relationships and their interpretation in terms of theoretical concepts of atomic and molecular structure, the deductions from the periodic system, and the basic ideas relating to electrolytes." The author has adhered to this policy in his treatment of copper, silver and gold, and in this respect the treatment has a usefulness not to be found in older works.

In this volume a somewhat unusual emphasis is placed on the extractive metallurgy and refining of the metals. Of a total of 113 pages devoted to copper, 52 relate to recovery from ores, refining and commercial alloys. For silver these sections take 25 of the total of 70 pages, and for gold, 30 out of 55. Within these sections, which deal with what may be thought of as the industrial chemistry of the three metals, there appears to be a good sense of proportion and an adequate coverage, considering the available space.

The book is attractive in general appearance and style and its text is well composed and readable. It gives every impression of a thorough and conscientious effort on the part of the author, editors and publisher. A prospective purchaser will be able to judge from the size and cost of the book that the word "Comprehensive" in the title of the series does not mean the same as it does, for instance, in Mellor's "Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry." The present volume devotes approximately one-third as much text to the elements it covers as does Mellor. Gmelin, in turn, is of course even more "comprehensive."

The book's jacket gives the usual brief biographical information about the editors but none about the author. This is a deficiency that should be remedied in a new jacket or at least in the publisher's advertising.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

EDWARD WICHERS

BOOKS RECEIVED

March 10, 1955—April 10, 1955

J. H. BAXENDALE. I. "Oxidation of Benzene by Hydrogen Peroxide." II. "Reaction of Hydrogen Peroxide with some Iron Complexes." Reilly Lectures, Volume X. University of Notre Dame Press, Publishers, Notre Dame, Indiana. 1955. 34 pp. \$1.50.

FRANK A. BOVEY, I. M. KOLTHOFF, AVROM I. MEDALIA AND EDWARD J. MEEHAN. "Emulsion Polymerization." High Polymers, Volume IX. Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. 1955. 445 pp. \$12.50.

P. W. KENT AND M. W. WHITEHOUSE. "Biochemistry of the Aminosugars." Academic Press, Inc., Publishers, 125 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y. 1955. 311 pp. \$6.80.

GUSTAV KORTUM. "Kolorimetrie-Photometrie und Spektrometrie. Eine Anleitung Zur Ausführung von Absorptions-, Emissions-, Fluorescenz-, Streuungs-, Trübungs- und Reflexionsmessungen." Anleitungen für die Chemische Laboratoriumspraxis. Band II. Dritte Neubearbeitete Auflage. Springer-Verlag, Publishers, Reichpietschufer 20, Berlin W 35, Germany. 1955. 458 pp. 36 DM.

P. LAFFITTE AND H. BRUSSET. "Les Gaz Inertes L'Hydrogène-Les Halogènes." Masson et Cie, Editeurs, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris 6, France. 1955. 396 pp. Broche 3600 fr., Cartonné toile 4200 fr.

MARY EVELYN LAING MCBAIN AND ERIC HUTCHINSON. "Solubilization and Related Phenomena." (Physical Chemistry. A Series of Monographs, Volume IV). Academic Press, Inc., Publishers, 125 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y. 1955. 259 pp. \$7.00.

R. A. ROBINSON AND R. H. STOKES. "Electrolyte Solutions: The Measurement and Interpretation of Conductance, Chemical Potential and Diffusion in Solutions of Simple Electrolytes." Academic Press, Inc., Publishers, 125 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y. 1955. 512 pp. \$9.50.

N. J. TOIVONEN, E. TOMMILA, J. ERKAMA, P. ROINE, J. K. MIETTINEN, Editors. "Biochemistry of Nitrogen." Series A. II. *Chemica*, Nr. 60. Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia, Publishers, Helsinki, Finland. 1955. 535 pp. 2300 Mk., bound 2800 Mk.

B. M. W. TRAPNELL. "Chemisorption." Academic Press, Inc., Publishers, 125 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y. 1955. 259 pp. \$6.80.

E. BRIGHT WILSON, JR., J. C. DECIUS, AND PAUL C. CROSS. "Molecular Vibrations." The Theory of Infrared and Raman Vibrational Spectra. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., Publishers, 330 W. 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y. 1955. 388 pp. \$8.50.

G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME AND MARGARET P. CAMERON. (Editors for the Ciba Foundation). "Ciba Foundation Symposium on Chemistry and Biology of Pteridines." Little, Brown and Company, Boston 6, Massachusetts. 1954. 425 pp. \$8.00.