

mechanisms which had been established by kinetic studies prior to 1953, such as Eaborn's elucidation of the cleavage of  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiC}_6\text{H}_4\text{OCH}_3$  by acids, are indeed included. It does appear, however, that with the exception of the preparation of some azo dyes, reactions of organic-functional groups with other organic reagents (that is, reactions which are primarily of interest in the organic sense but involve compounds containing one or more atoms of silicon) are given a light treatment. This seems entirely appropriate in a handbook of inorganic chemistry.

The late L. M. Dennis often remarked that the great value of Gmelin's Handbuch lay not just in its being dependably complete (for abstracts and indexes would do as well there, with some additional work), but rather in the fact that it was a *critical* review of all that had been done. The ability of the Gmelin editors to read, absorb, and then organize all the work that had been done in a given area was, he felt, an invaluable and almost inimitable characteristic of the German mind which we should respect and encourage at all times. Your reviewer agrees.

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**Marburger Diskussionstagungen. Band 3. Abhängigkeit der Eigenschaften Hochpolymerer von der Vorgeschichte des Materials.** Vorträge und Diskussionen der 3 Tagung gehalten zu Bad Nauheim von 22-23 April, 1958. Edited by Prof. Dr. F. HORST MÜLLER, Marburg/Lahn. Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff Verlag, Holzhofallee 35, Darmstadt, Germany. 142 pp. 19.5 × 26.5 cm. Price, DM. 20.—.

The third volume of the "Marburger Diskussionstagungen" is devoted to the influence of history on the properties of polymeric materials; it contains six presentations (on a total of about 75 pages) each of which is followed by an elaborate discussion (on a total of about 55 pages). Lectures and discussions together provide a very thorough and up to date description of our knowledge concerning the solid state behavior of polymeric systems and of the dependence of this behavior on the structural details of the materials. The Marburger Tagungen are of a character similar to the famous Gordon Research Conferences where the original presentations which are on a high level in their own right, are nevertheless considered only as an initiation for the resulting discussion. In fact, also in this volume, the most interesting results and aspects are found in the discussion remarks which are edited with great skill and care by Professor F. H. Müller, who is the originator and organizer of these meetings. The volume can be highly recommended to anyone who is interested in the mechanical properties of polymers and in their dependence on the prior history of the samples.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

March 10, 1960-April 10, 1960

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- ERNST KODES. "Optische Daten zur Bestimmung anorganischer Substanzen mit dem Polarisationsmikroskop. Mit einer kurzen Einführung in die kristall-optischen Arbeitsmethoden." Verlag Chemie, G.m.b.H., Pappelallee 3, Weinheim/Bergstr., Germany. 1960. 191 pp. DM 43.—.
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