

urements to the determination. The estimation of deuterium and tritium is also covered. A bibliography of 356 citations is included.

The inert gases of Group 0 are fully considered in a 92-page chapter by Gerhard A. Cook. Much attention is given to sampling and methods of separation. The major portion of the chapter deals with methods of estimation of which mass spectrometry and gas chromatography are of major importance. Spectral measurements, radioactive measurements and numerous other techniques are described in detail. The laboratory procedures cover practical methods and the determination of the usual impurities in each of the gases. An adequate bibliography is included.

The chapter on the alkali metals is the most lengthy (159 pp.) and includes a bibliography of 471 references. Some 27 pages are devoted to the physical and chemical properties of the elements. The various methods of separation and determination are given in detail.

The various chapters in the volume differ considerably in the amount of analytical detail that is given. The volume is a good source of information on both the commonplace and the newer and less studied methods for the determination of the elements and compounds that are included. A Subject Index is provided.

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An Introduction to the Analysis of Spin-Spin Splitting in High-Resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectra.

By JOHN D. ROBERTS, California Institute of Technology. W. A. Benjamin, Inc., 2465 Broadway, New York 25, N. Y. 1961. vii + 116 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price, \$4.95.

Professor Roberts' book (his second in this field) should be of considerable help to organic chemists who have occasion to interpret high-resolution n.m.r. spectra. The book does not pretend to be a rigorous, sophisticated analysis of n.m.r. spectra. However, it succeeds quite well in giving the beginner a feeling for what is going on in spin systems, and in giving plausible, correct and readily applied recipes for calculating the necessary matrix elements, energy levels and transition probabilities. The utility of the book is greatly augmented by the spectra of un-named compounds given for the reader to interpret and by the numerous problems which are distributed throughout the book.

The excellent figures and diagrams are also most helpful. A beginner, having worked his way through this book, should be able to handle Pople, Schneider and Bernstein or the review article by Corio without undue difficulty.

The book suffers to a certain extent in being too short. Such a book, written for the beginner, might well have included a section introducing the reader to the art of resolving secular determinants larger than 2×2 ; a description of the Jacobi method might have been appropriate here. Anderson and McConnell's use of spectral moments is just mentioned, although it often readily yields chemically valuable information. The utility of group theory in simplifying n.m.r. spectral calculations was most elegantly shown by E. B. Wilson; this utility is hinted at here, but might have been developed fully to good advantage, since the technique can drastically decrease the amount of work necessary in spectral analysis. This book includes several good charts and correlation diagrams of n.m.r. spectral variation with the relative magnitudes of the parameters. It does not approach the detailed numerical coverage given in Corio's review article, however, and explicit mention of the existence of these tables would have been appropriate.

In some places an unwary reader might be confused as to the meaning of I_2 ; is it being used as a quantum number or as an operator? The physical interpretation of the orthogonality of the spin functions α and β could cause confusion when mixed states of several nuclei are considered later on.

All in all, however, the strong points of this book heavily outweigh the weak ones, and Professor Roberts' book will probably serve organic (and physical) chemists for some time as the most readable, easily followed introduction to spin-spin coupling in n.m.r. spectra available.

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Organo-Metallic Compounds. By G. E. COATES, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.I.C., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Durham. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y. 1961. xiii + 366 pp. 14 × 20.5 cm. Price, \$7.50.

In keeping with the conventions adopted in the earlier edition Professor Coates has again limited his consideration to compounds containing carbon-metal bonds, a restriction which eliminates any detailed discussion of metal alkoxides and other interesting compounds where the metal atoms are bonded to carbon-containing entities *via* oxygen, nitrogen, etc. The very extensive organic chemistry of silicon, phosphorus and arsenic has also again been omitted. In addition, certain voluminous fields in synthetic organic chemistry, such as use of the Grignard reagent, are necessarily treated rather briefly. In the main, the chemistry of transition metal carbonyls and cyanide complexes has not been included, except where these substances are used in the preparation of other compounds, such as the mixed cyclopentadienyl and arene carbonyls.

The new edition has been increased in size by approximately a factor of two. Most of the new material is concerned with recent developments in the chemistry of the alkali metals, boron, tin and the transition metals. In incorporating this material the author has rewritten a considerable portion of the text dealing with these elements. The most striking change is perhaps that made in the section dealing with the transition metals, where the earlier rather short chapter has been expanded to well over one hundred pages. In the other chapters not mentioned above, new material also has been introduced, but in many instances the over-all change in content is not very extensive. An attempt has been made to include the major developments which were published up to the autumn of 1959, and a few references to the 1960 literature have been added in proof. Some idea of the scope of the author's over-all efforts may be gained by noting that the book contains approximately nine hundred references to the original literature.

The major emphasis has again been placed on the preparative and descriptive aspects of the subject. This is reflected both in the selection of the material and in the method of presentation, the latter being based almost exclusively on the framework provided by the groups of the periodic table. In addition to the purely descriptive material, the book contains a discussion of the nature of various types of carbon-metal bonds, including an especially detailed summary of the conclusions which may be drawn from the molecular orbital viewpoint about the bonding in the cyclopentadienyl and arene complexes of the transition metals. When the results of physical-chemical studies such as molecular weight, dipole moment, magnetic susceptibility and infrared, n.m.r. and e.p.r. spectra were available, this information has usually been summarized at the point where the properties of the individual compound are considered.

In the reviewer's opinion Professor Coates has been remarkably successful in summarizing a large amount of fascinating material in a book of relatively modest size and price. The over-all treatment of the subject is not intended to be comprehensive, but even an expert in the field will find that the book provides a useful summary of information and a ready source of key references. For the non-specialists the book should serve as a most perceptive and readily comprehended introduction to an important and rapidly expanding field of research.

In the reviewer's opinion, certain minor defects are inevitable in a book of this sort. The condensation of so much material in so little space has necessitated the use of a rather terse and not particularly readable style of writing. The organization of the material in terms of the groups of the periodic table provides an efficient presentation of descriptive material; unfortunately, this classification does not readily lend itself to an emphasis either of over-all generalities or of the physical-chemical aspects of the subject. For example, when structural information based on X-ray analysis is available for a given compound, this is clearly presented in diagrammatic form at the point in the book where the compound is considered. However, a summary of such structural information and generalities to be deduced from it can only be obtained by a page to page perusal of the entire book, unaided even by a listing of the appropriate information in the subject index. The

results of other physical-chemical studies are equally inaccessible. To some extent these difficulties could be alleviated without a major change in point of view by the inclusion of a more comprehensive subject index. Some readers might also feel that an authors' index would be useful, even though the book may contain only a fraction of the important work of a given scientist.

The book appears to be relatively free of both factual and typographical errors. The present edition has been improved by the use of a larger and more readable size of type.

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Arbeiterinnerungen. By HERMANN STAUDINGER. Dr. Alfred Hüthig Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany. 1961. xi + 335 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price, DM. 28.—.

In this interesting volume Professor Hermann Staudinger, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry in 1953, gives a condensed presentation of his extensive contributions to organic and polymer chemistry. In the introduction he first describes his training and tells of his original desire to become a botanist. He mentions the many teachers under whom he studied and credits each with his contribution to Professor Staudinger's development. Throughout the book he inserts personal experiences and discussion of his work which makes this a unique report of his research.

In Part A of the text Professor Staudinger covers his early work on low molecular weight compounds. This includes the work on ketenes; aliphatic diazo compounds; organic phosphorus compounds; reaction of methylenes; autooxidation of organic materials; work on oxalyl chloride; explosives; synthesis of isoprene; insecticides, particularly his work on pyrethrum and its constituents; synthetic pepper; the aromatic constituents of coffee; synthetic drugs; asymmetric synthesis; and a few other problems.

In Part B Professor Staudinger covers his highly original contributions to the field of macromolecular chemistry which brought him the Nobel Prize. First, he reviews the early work done in 1920-1930; then, in order, he treats macromolecular chemistry, a new field in organic chemistry in which he develops his ideas of the structure of large molecules; colloidal solutions; methods of studying macromolecules; molecular weight and its relation to viscosity; macromolecules in the solid state; methods of polymerization; synthetic macromolecules; natural macromolecules; and macromolecular chemistry and biology.

In Part C Professor Staudinger's Nobel Prize Lecture is reproduced.

In this book Professor Staudinger coordinates in an interesting fashion his many unpublished theses with his extensive published works so that this represents a summary of his many contributions to chemistry. This report documents his role as the founder of the science of polymer chemistry.

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Vitamin B₁₂. By E. LESTER SMITH, D.Sc., F.R.S., Senior Biochemist, Glaxo Laboratories. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y., 11 × 17 cm. Price, \$3.00.

This latest of Methuen's Biochemical Monographs, as stated in the foreword, is intended "to be rather more than a review but less than a detailed monograph" and to serve both as an introduction to the subject for the student and a source of more advanced information for the research worker. Dr. Smith has accomplished all these objectives most admirably. He is well qualified to do this since many years of his own research have been devoted to vitamin B₁₂.

During the more than twenty years of chemical work on the antipernicious anemia factor, at least nine independent lines of research were pursued, and the problem was further complicated by the close biological interaction of vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid. The author first delineates these various ap-

proaches and explains their interrelationships, and then proceeds to discuss each phase of the work from the point of view of scientific unity rather than chronology.

The account of the chemistry and structure determination is discussed in the light of final results, but experimental details are given to show how this classical work was accomplished. Here, as throughout the book, important contributions and original references are cited together with references to the number of more extensive and specialized reviews which are available.

Sufficient discussion of megaloblastic anemia and the role of vitamin B₁₂ in human and animal nutrition is given to allow an appreciation of its important functions, but these sections are relatively brief.

Considerable space is devoted to assay methods, both because this is a complicated problem *per se*, and because any attempt to evaluate data on the origin and distribution of vitamin B₁₂ necessitates a knowledge of the assay method used.

Preparation and biological activity of the numerous derivatives and analogs of vitamin B₁₂ are covered thoroughly.

The section on mechanism of action is of necessity mostly a discussion of hypotheses and compilation of experimental data on which these are based. As Dr. Smith points out, much active work is still in progress and many important questions must be left unanswered at present.

Although this book is intended primarily for biochemists, it is the first review of this subject which treats all phases of the problem with equal emphasis. It is an excellent work for anyone wishing to acquire a general knowledge of vitamin B₁₂ as well as a good starting point for a more detailed study of any particular phase of the problem.

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Advances in Chemical Physics. Volume III. Edited by I. PRIGOGINE, University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium. Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. 1961. ix + 372 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price, \$11.50.

This is the third annual volume which has appeared in this series. It consists of eight articles as follows: I, Mechanisms of Organic Electrode Reactions by Elving and Pullman; II, Nonlinear Problems in Thermodynamics of Irreversible Processes by Bak; III, Propagation of Flames and Detonations by Hirschfelder and Curtiss; IV, Large Tunnelling Corrections in Chemical Reaction Rates by Johnston; V, Aspects Récents du Diamagnétisme by Pacault, Hoavau, and Marchand; VI, Powder Electrodes and their Applications by Tomassi; VII, Variational Principles in Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics of Irreversible Processes by Ono; and VIII, Electron Diffraction in Gases and Molecular Structure by Bastiansen and Skancke.

These are authoritative articles written by experts in their respective fields. It is not necessary to discuss the contents of the various articles here because the above titles furnish a fair description. The editor in his introduction states that it is his purpose "to ask an expert to write a comprehensive article in which he explains his view on a subject freely and without limitation of space." Articles I, IV, V, VI and VIII are personalized review articles within this framework and they should enjoy a wide reading audience. Articles II, III and VII are very mathematical in nature although they also adhere to the above concept of the editor in that they are probably more detailed than the usual publications of this nature. The following statement is not meant to be a criticism of the latter articles; however, they are rather difficult to read for the non-theoretical chemist and probably will not appeal to most chemists.

Individuals should bear in mind that Articles II, III and VII contribute over 150 pages to the 362 pages of textual material of this volume. The book is, however, certainly a "must" for all chemistry libraries.

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