

have hoped for a more critical evaluation than has been done in many cases. The lack of evaluation is particularly evident in Chapters 6 and 7 where the 1400 references contain a vast amount of hidden misinformation.

This book will make a useful addition to a library shelf since it will provide a ready entry into published information. Both its price and its nature will make it infrequently found in one's personal library.

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Organic Complexing Reagents: Structure, Behavior, and Application to Inorganic Analysis. By D. D. PERRIN, Department of Medical Chemistry, Institute of Advanced Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 1964. xi + 365 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. \$12.00.

Here is a volume that lifts itself from mediocrity into a much more exposed position by means of an outrageous preface. Here in Volume XVIII in the well-known Interscience "Chemical Analysis" series, Dr. Perrin attributes to Professors Kolthoff and Elving, the series editors, as well as himself, the awareness that "almost all analytical procedures and books, with the notable exception of F. Feigl's 'Specific, Selective, Sensitive Reactions,' have been concerned with experimental techniques, conditions, or requirements, rather than with information about the basic principles involved in the reactions and with the properties that confer analytical usefulness on the end products." Only two volumes earlier in the same series, the excellent text by Professor A. Ringbom, "Complexation in Analytical Chemistry: A Guide for the Critical Selection of Analytical Methods Based on Complexation Reactions," is an eloquent contradiction to this author's prefatory remarks. Another pertinent text is that of Flagg's, "Organic Reagents Used in Gravimetric and Volumetric Analysis," published as Volume IV of this series. There is a wealth of additional examples of analytical books and shorter publications dealing with fundamental principles of the formation and properties of analytical useful complexes. In addition, most analytical chemists interested in complexing agents know, as does Dr. Perrin, the pertinence of the recent inorganic literature dealing with coordination complexes. There are chapters in Martell and Calvin, and in Bailar, on analytical applications of chelating agents, to name but a few. The chapter in this text dealing with kinetic factors in complex formation contained little that could not be found in Basolo and Pearson's "Mechanisms of Inorganic Chemistry."

This book has very little to offer the serious student of organic complexing agents in the way of novelty, clarity, or thoroughness. Although there are a few scattered recent references, many of them are earlier than 1960. In referring to the use of 8-mercaptoquinoline, a reagent of considerable promise, for example, no reference is made to the important series of papers by Bankovski and his students which have been appearing for the last 5 years, but only to a one-page communication in the *Virginia Journal of Science* appearing in 1943.

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