New Books

ORGANIC PEROXIDES. THEIR CHEMISTRY, DECOMPOSITION, AND ROLE IN POLYMERIZATION, by Arthur V. Tobolsky and Robert R. Mesrobian (Interscience Publishers Inc., New York City, 197 pages, $5.75, 1954). Within the past 10 years the activity and interest in organic peroxides have been high. The reasons for this are many. Some of the more cogent ones are that peroxides are now universally recognized as important intermediates in autoxidation processes, certain peroxides are achieving large industrial importance, the use and study of peroxides in initiating vinyl polymerizations is not only of commercial importance but also gives valuable information regarding chemical reactivity, and organic peroxides are a relatively unexplored and new class of organic compounds for which techniques of study and handling have only recently been refined.

Although there have been several reviews on certain classes of peroxides, notably peracids and hydroperoxides, to the reviewer's knowledge there are no textbooks in the English language which have attempted to cover the entire field. The present book is a noteworthy attempt to collect the published information on the vast majority of peroxide types. Although the book is not entirely adequate from the organic chemist's viewpoint, particularly because it fails to deal more thoroughly with the chemical reactions of peroxides, especially organic peracids, nevertheless this omission is not serious since adequate literature references are given. The authors, on the other hand, are to be complimented on cramming so much useful information in less than 200 pages. The writing on the whole is lucid and to the point, and the book is easy to read and free from errors.

The appendices, in which much useful data on the physical properties, commercial availability, and explosive character of peroxides are compiled, are especially valuable. It is unfortunate that a more nearly quantitative scale of explosive character does not exist for peroxides since it is difficult for a reader to distinguish between "highly explosive," "extremely explosive," "very explosive," and "explodes violently." This is not intended as a criticism of the book since the desired information is not available. It should be emphasized that *all* peroxides are potentially hazardous and should be handled with extreme caution, especially on a macro scale. Many peroxides are distilled in their purification; adequate barricades should always be employed.

The scope of the book can best be described by listing some of the main subject headings:

- Peroxides of Structure ROOH (Hydroperoxides)
- Peroxides of Structure ROOR (Dialkyl and Diaralkyl Peroxides)
- Peroxides of Structure RC(=O)OOH (Peroxy Acids)
- Peroxides of Structure RC(=O)OOR' (Peroxy Esters)
- Peroxides of Structure RC(=O)OO(O=)CR (Diacyl and Diaroyl Peroxides)
- Peroxy Derivatives of Aldehydes and Ketones
- Analytical Methods for Determination of Organic Peroxides
- Decomposition of Peroxides
- Initiation of Vinyl Polymerization by Peroxide Decomposition

There are numerous literature references, but the subject index appears to be somewhat on the sparse side. The book can be recommended without reservation.

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FRENCH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY FOR CHEMISTS, 2nd Ed., by Austin M. Patterson (John Wiley and Sons Inc., New York City, 476 pages, $6.50, 1954). This dictionary, like its counterpart for German by the same author, has been the standard among chemists. Through this revision the vocabulary in the book has grown from 35,000 terms to an estimate of 42,000. However the actual increase in new vocabulary is greater than the difference of the two figures because many terms of the same spelling and meaning in French and English have been omitted.

The use of about 15 standard technical vocabularies in preparation of this edition and Dr. Patterson's invitation for suggestions in the earlier edition have been factors that make this book an outstanding tool. This is the most useful dictionary for reading the scientific and technical literature written in French.

M. M. PISKUR
Swift and Company
Chicago, Ill.

Milner Goes to Illinois

REID T. MILNER, formerly director of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, U.S.D.A., at Peoria, Ill., became head of the department of Food Technology, College of Agriculture, of the University of Illinois, Urbana, on April 19, 1954. He has been a member of the American Oil Chemists' Society since 1936 and was president in 1947. His record of committee activities is long, and he was editor of the Journal 1948-49. Since 1952 he has been the Society's representative in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Drops News Letter

W. Williams, consulting chemical engineer of Fish Hoek, C. P. South Africa, who has been supplying a monthly news letter for recent issues of the Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society, writes that he must drop the work. His business is taking him away from his office so much of the time that he cannot collect and write the necessary notes, he reports. The editorial staff of the Journal takes this opportunity to thank him for the copy which he has been able to send.

Fatty Acids Drop

The Association of American Soap and Glycerine Producers Inc. announces that production of fatty acids in March 1954 totalled 30.8 million pounds, some 3.4% below the February level. It was 11% below the production in March 1953. Total disposition was 34 million pounds, 0.4 million below the February figures, and approximately 2.7 million below the March 1953 level. Stocks, including work in process, declined to a level of 49.9 million pounds.