

Our Journal - - - - What Is It?

PERIODICALLY it behooves us to review or position in the field of scientific publication in order to determine wherein it may be possible to improve our part of the job. A journal such as ours is rightfully many things to many people, and in this effort to serve diverse reader interests we have many activity sections in the Journal. The main purpose of this review of our Journal activities is to solicit the thinking and suggestions of its readers for means of expanding or improving the service.



A. R. Baldwin

Descriptions of original scientific applied or basic work constitute the bulk of our publication. Diligent efforts by reviewers and associate editors aid the authors in the review, clarification, and simplification of their manuscripts. As the late Prof. H. J. Deuel Jr. so nicely pointed out, "The A.O.C.S. is indeed fortunate in having arrived at the position of maturity in the field of chemistry, technology, nutrition and metabolism of oils, fats, and related problems so that it can enjoy the approach at the fundamental as well as the practical levels." Papers of a general review nature are considered appropriate if they cover subjects of current interest and if similar reviews are not already available in the literature.

The Society each year has several symposia at the national meetings and at the Short Course. The papers presented therein are frequently assembled for simultaneous publication. Thus the short course papers on "Unit Processes in the Fatty Oil, Soap, and Detergent Industries" were printed in the October and November 1956 issues. Likewise papers on "Safety in Solvent-Extraction Plants" and "Detergents" will appear in forthcoming issues. Symposia papers, such as these, have proved to be of practical interest, especially to engineers and operating personnel.

As a special service the Society has an Annual Literature Review Committee, which comprehensively reviews and summarizes for publication the pertinent literature. This is especially useful to those of us who have neither time nor facilities to cover all the literature ourselves. Many of our foreign correspondents have expressed appreciation for these reviews and for the Abstract Section of the Journal. These extensive abstracts are selected from other journals around the world to cover the broad interests of our readers in the fields of 1) general oils and fats, 2) fatty acid derivatives, 3) biology and nutrition, 4) detergents, and 5) drying oils and paints.

IN RECENT YEARS editorials on this page have been supplied by leaders and authorities from all segments of our circulation on such subjects as university education and research, private and public consulting organizations, the edible fat industry, fatty acid industry, protective coatings industry, detergent industry, other common interest societies in this country and abroad, and the fatty oil industry in several foreign countries.

A journal such as ours should have a place for letters to the editor. These provide a rapid means of publishing scientific observations which would not in themselves justify a complete technical paper. In addition to this form of letter there is a Problem Corner, which furnishes answers by our Technical Correspondent to interesting technical questions submitted by readers throughout the world.

The Book Review section provides opinions and observations by recognized men in the field on new technical books. Likewise information on new products and new trade literature is provided.

Our Journal, in addition to being a medium for the dissemination of technical and scientific information, serves as a news medium for Society activities. Technical and administrative committee reports describe the prodigious amount of work done by these groups of busy members of the Society. These reports often describe new analytical methods being studied or offered for approval as recognized "official" methods. Officers' reports, including the president's annual address, are also included. Other items of Society interest include announcements of special activities, local and national meetings, meeting programs, and technical and social reports of meetings.

THE ADVERTISING PORTION of the Journal performs a worthy service to both the advertisers and readers by providing a direct means for those who distribute goods or services to bring these to the attention of personnel who use or recommend the use of them in all segments of the fatty oil and allied industries. Likewise advertising acquaints our readers with newer commercial developments and with the services or goods which suppliers can provide. It has been said by many advertisers and readers that there is "no other journal which performs this service to the specific fat and allied industries so well." Personal employment ads act as a low-cost clearing-house service, which is becoming better known and more useful with every issue.

The Journal features are indexed in the December issue for the convenience of those who wish to bind their volumes. A 35-year cumulative index for 1917-1952 is available from the Society office to provide easy reference to the wealth of literature and Society activities of the past.

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The booklet, which is Monograph No. 67 to *Angewandte Chemie* and *Chemie-Ingenieur-Technik*, contains a very useful table of contents and a good index as well as a bibliography of 525 references. An abstract of it was published in *Angewandte Chemie*, 66, 557-561 (1954).

The monograph begins with a foreword by Adolf Butenandt and is divided into two parts, general and specific. The general part includes detailed discussions of theory and practice of batch distribution including countercurrent distribution and of continuous extraction and distribution. The specific part discusses preliminary experiments and selection of solvent systems of specific types of organic and inorganic compounds. The reduction of emulsions and complexes of inorganic compounds is also covered. Many examples of apparatus are described and illustrated throughout the monograph, which contains 89 figures and 74 tables.

The content of the general part compares very favorably with Chapter IV by L. C. and D. Craig in Vol. III of A. Weissberger's "Technique of Organic Chemistry." The monograph is more up to date. The specific part contains many practical examples of solvent systems which were not available at the time of writing of the Craig chapter. The German is readily understood, especially if one is at all familiar with extraction and distribution. The booklet fills a need for a reference manual dealing with extraction and distribution.

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WOOL WAX: CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, by E. Vernon Truter (Interscience Publishers Inc., New York, N. Y., X + 368 pp., 15 x 24.5 cm., 1956, \$8.75). The book comprises 12 chapters, namely: The Fleece Contents; The Chemical Constitution of Wool Wax; The Constitution and Uses of Suint; Some Properties of Emulsions, Recovery of Wool Wax; Saponification of Wool Wax; The Isolation and Determination of Cholesterol; Sorting Molecules by Size and Shape; Lanostane Derivatives; Some Steroidal Derivatives; The Bradford Recovery Process; and Uses of Wool Wax. Under each chapter heading are listed the major points discussed therein. There are, in addition to the text, two appendixes, a table of definitions, author and subject indexes.

Not since the report by Gillespie (C.S.I.R.O. Australia) in 1946 has there been a comprehensive review of wool wax. In this book the author has attempted to bring the reader up to date on this subject and, in the opinion of this reviewer, has succeeded quite well. Dr. Truter, who is a lecturer in textile chemistry at the University of Leeds, England, is an active investigator in the field of wool wax chemistry. He seems to have "scoured" the literature of the field very thoroughly as evidenced by the number of references at the end of each chapter. The description of the experimental work leading to the final elucidation of the structure of lanosterol appears to be particularly well done. However the author has focussed too much attention on some subjects, such as clathrate compounds and emulsions, and too little attention on others.

The book is well written and readable. There were a few errors, for the most part trivial, that were noticed. This reviewer would take issue with the author's view that ante-iso structures have a terminal isobutyl residue (p. 35). With a material, the behavior of which is as perverse as wool wax, there are certain to be some differences of opinion in evaluating some data. This may be true about some statements in the text. However readers of this journal with an interest in wool wax will find a wealth of information in this book and will do well to add this volume to their personal libraries.

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FATS, OILS, DETERGENTS YEARBOOK 1955, B. F. Daubert, editor (Interscience Publishers Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., 1,144 pp., 6½ x 9¾ in., 1955, \$45). The Fats, Oils, and Detergents Abstracts have been published monthly in loose-leaf form for 12 years. The present volume is a bound collection of the abstracts thus distributed during 1955. The Abstract Service consists of quite complete abstracts, including pertinent tables, equations, graphs, and some pictures from original papers which were considered by the editor to be the most important papers published on these subjects in current domestic and foreign journals. The abstracts are so complete that for most purposes it is not necessary to refer to the original works for details. Each abstract is simply arranged to include subject, authors, their location, publication reference, title of the paper, purpose of the work, methods used, and results. It may vary in length from about ¼ page to 9 or 10 pages, depending upon the amount of data included in

the form of pictures, tables, or graphs. Author and subject indexes facilitate use of the volume. Many libraries not receiving the monthly Abstract Service will wish to have the abstracts in this convenient bound form. It also offers an easy way for those in all aspects of fat, oil, and detergent work to keep fairly well apprised of the relevant developments in theory and research around the world.

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GEOLOGY AND OURSELVES, F. H. Edmunds (Philosophical Library Inc., 15 E. 40th Street, New York, N. Y., 254 pp., 6 x 9 in., 1956, \$10). The 16 chapters containing numerous diagrams and photographs evidenced the author's broad experience in the economic aspects of geology and are designed to show the importance of geology to our every-day living. The author has been for 30 years a member of the staff of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. This varied experience has provided the basic illustrations which make the book interesting. Despite the local applications, the principles of such phenomena as underground water movement, weathering of rocks, and geological growth of the earth should arouse the interest of anyone who wishes to know more about the world around him. Engineering projects, such as tunnels, mines, and dams, point out how the geologist helps the engineer to avoid troubles. Descriptions of such activities as coal mining, water conservation, and drilling of deep holes in the earth are especially interesting to the inquisitive layman and amateur geologist. The book should also appeal to such scientific readers as civil, architectural, and mining engineers.

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A.O.C.S. Commentary

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As we look forward to a growing Society and Journal, it is important that our current activities should be reviewed and new ideas and suggestions be offered. Members of the Journal staff and the Journal Committee always welcome comments, but we do so especially now as we start a new year, the 41st year of publication.

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Publishes Book on Instruments

Modern Instruments in Chemical Analysis, by Frank M. Biffen and William Seaman (McGraw-Hill Book Company Inc., New York, 333 pp., 1956, \$7.50) gives operating techniques and data for new instruments and points out the advantages and limitations of each. Some of the major instrumental methods covered are flame photometry; visual, ultraviolet, and infrared spectrophotometry; Raman spectroscopy; mass spectrometry; X-ray diffraction; polarography; potentiometry; conductometry; coulometry; and use of radioactivity.

Publishes Annual Catalog

The 41st annual edition of the Chemical Engineering Catalog is now available from Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 430 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. The 1932-page catalog offers descriptive material on the equipment offered by more than 550 manufacturers and is indexed by company name, trade name, application or functional purpose of the product, and the name of the product itself.

Revises Fire Codes

The National Fire Codes, a compilation of 174 fire safety standards as developed by the National Fire Protection Association, have been published in a revised six-volume edition. Volume II, "Combustible Solids, Dusts, Chemicals, and Explosives," contains 35 standards and is available at \$6 per copy from the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Mass.