

New Books

J. F. Gerecht, Book Review Editor

Marine Chemistry, Vol. 1, Dean F. Martin (Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1972, 389 p., \$9.75).

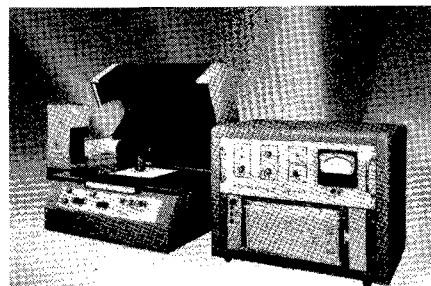
The 1972 edition of this book is a revised version of an earlier volume (280 p.), published in 1968. In general, the same format has been adopted by the author, and the subject matter is devoted almost exclusively to the analytical techniques used in marine chemistry.

The book consists of 35 chapters, together with three appendices, and is divided into five sections: I. Basic Contents and Methods, 101 p.; II. Analysis of Selected Micronutrients and Related Compounds, 112 p.; III. Other Spectroscopic Techniques, 43 p.; IV. Analysis of Polluted Waters, 82 p.; and V. Analysis of Sediments and Selected Organic Matter, 34 p. An author index and a subject index are also provided. This method of grouping the subject matter was not employed in the first edition, and it must have become apparent very early in the revision that some division was necessary—particularly with the addition of a further 109 pages. The additions occur principally in sections II, IV and V. Section I remains largely unchanged.

In reviewing this book, one naturally makes a comparison with the first edition. As far as chemical oceanographers are concerned, the first edition was not a satisfactory volume and did not fulfill many of the desires of those intimately engaged in this field of study. The author has taken some of these criticisms and suggestions to heart but, nevertheless, does not seem to have paid sufficient attention to some of the more fundamental objections. For example, it seems hardly necessary in a text on marine chemistry to devote as many as 25 pages to topics dealing with significant figures, exponential numbers, logarithms, precision-accuracy, and definitions of atomic weight, molecular weight, molarity, molality, normality and so on. Such topics are not unique to marine chemistry and are better left to more fundamental texts.

The author appears to have had some personal difficulties in deciding what material should be included in this volume. Each of the 35 chapters is preceded by an introduction which contains brief statements summarizing the analytical techniques available. Most of these introductions appear to have been written rather hastily. In some cases, however, the author has felt it necessary to go into considerable detail on topics other than those relating to analysis. For example, almost 12 pages is devoted to some of the historical and scientific studies dealing with mercury pollution. I feel that such a discussion is quite out of place and is neither in keeping with the expressed intentions of the author nor the format adopted for other chapters.

There are many specific comments that should be made in reference to the topics presented. Space does not permit such a comprehensive presentation, but a few points deserve mention.
(Continued on page 13A)



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