

News briefs

John D. Burns has been elected chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer by the **Vista Chemical Co.** Board of Directors. Burns, who currently serves as president and chief executive officer, will assume the new position Oct. 23.

Procter & Gamble Co. has announced that **Samih A. Sherif**, group vice president, will retire Dec. 31, 1988, after more than 31 years with the company. Also, the company's board of directors has elected the following officers to new positions: **Larry G. Dare**, vice president for Northern Europe; and **Claude L. Meyer**, vice president for Central Europe. Also, **Alessandra**

Baldini has been appointed division manager of Southern Europe.

Novo Industri A/G has received approval from the Danish National Food Agency to produce its fat-splitting enzyme, "Lipolase," in Denmark. "Lipolase" is the first industrial enzyme product to be produced for the world market by genetic engineering; previously, it was only produced at Novo's plant in Hokkaido, Japan.

International Bio-Synthetics Inc. (BIS) has named **Robert F. Sutthof** vice president of marketing and sales and a member of the company's board of directors.

Nicca Chemical Co. of Japan has opened its first sales office in the

U.S. The office is in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dow Chemical Co. has licensed **Caled Signal Chemical Co.** to produce and distribute the CS surfactant concentrate used in "Dowper" CS dry cleaning solvent.

Dial Corp. announced it would discontinue production of "Purex" liquid chlorine bleach at its South Gate, California, plant by the end of September 1988. Bleach production has accounted for approximately 50% of total output at the South Gate facility, which also manufactures a dry detergent, heavy-duty and light-duty liquid detergents, a liquid fabric softener, ammonia and plastic bottles. The liquid bleach will continue to be made at some of Dial's 20 other plants around the country.

Surfactants & Detergents Publications

Book review

Detergency: Theory and Technology (Surfactant Science Series, Vol. 20), edited by **W. Gale Cutler** and **Erik Kissa (Marcel Dekker Inc., 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016, 1987, 560 pp., \$99.75 US and Canada, \$119.50 elsewhere).**

"Selected Topics in Detergency" would be a more informative title for this book. Anyone expecting a reasonably complete treatment of detergency will be disappointed by the absence of a discussion of surfactants which one might reasonably expect to be an essential part of "detergency." Without such expectations, however, the reader will be well-rewarded by the high level of discussion of the topics treated in this book.

There would seem to be something for almost everyone involved with detergency. The first chapter, "Evaluation of Detergency" by **Erik Kissa**, is an outstanding review of the subject. It covers not only the well-known techniques and methods but examines the limitations and pitfalls which are inherent in what must remain, for the

sake of practical utility, a simplistic and comparative approach.

Of similar high quality is the discussion of the "Kinetics and Mechanism of Soiling and Detergency" by the same author.

One of the less comparative and hence less objectionable approaches to detergency measurements makes use of radioisotopes. This subject is given an excellent review in a chapter on "Radioisotope Techniques in Detergency" by **W.T. Shebs**, who has been intimately involved in the development of this technique for many years.

Like the book itself, the chapter on "Inorganic Builders" by **Milan Schwuger** also is somewhat mislabeled. This chapter is devoted almost exclusively to a single builder—Zeolite A. However, the review on this subject is complete and authoritative.

Other chapters cover "Detergency in Nonaqueous Systems" by **Manfred Wentz**, with a very useful emphasis on its application in dry-cleaning; "New Physical and Analytical Techniques in Detergency" by **Ramon A. Llenado**; and a third and well-written contribution by **Erik Kissa** on the subject of "Soil Release."

In a chapter on "Lime Soap Dispersants," **Warner Linfield** reviews the work in this area by his group at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Eastern Regional Research Center. The substances examined here come close to satisfying the need to review surfactants in the context of the book since the distinction between surfactants and lime soap dispersants tends to blur in many cases.

The final chapter, by **Junryo Mino** on "Detergency Advances in Japan," reviews the detergency process from a theoretical viewpoint based on contributions of predominantly Japanese authors.

This book has been produced with care, leaving only a sprinkling of errors. The selection of topics collected in this volume does not easily permit the identification of a common thread. However, as noted, the individual reviews are excellent and will give the reader not only a summary of recent literature but more importantly, an enhanced understanding of the individual topics.

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