plicability to the rational design of polymer processing units.

The second part of the book (and portions of the first part) rapidly catalyzes the classical dichotomy concerning curricula in universities, say, training versus education, or perhaps better knowledge versus culture. Whatever the specific field of science, two philosophies conflict: on the one side, one may wish to train the graduate with a specific, well-organized body of technical knowledge which enables him to be directly useful in some segment of the productive world, but at the risk of becoming obsolete in a rapidly changing technology; on the other side, one may wish to educate the graduate by teaching him the fundamentals of scientific thought, leaving the acquisition of specific knowledge to his own ability on the job. Polymer science, being a field with a particularly high rate of evolution, is perhaps one of the best suited to the second approach. But even without stating so explicitly, it is the aspiration to realize freedom of thought, rather than any technical reason, that often makes the second approach the preferred one.

GIANNI ASTARITA
UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES
NAPLES, ITALY

Introduction to Thermodynamics: Classical and Statistical, R. E. Sonntag and G. J. Van Wylen, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York (1971). 813 pages. $13.95.

This introductory thermodynamics text is based largely on two earlier books by the same authors, *Fundamentals of Classical Thermodynamics,* and *Fundamentals of Statistical Thermodynamics.* According to the authors, this new edition has been written primarily to satisfy the need for a flexible teaching arrangement of the subject from both the classical and statistical points of view. The authors describe the organization of the book very well and recommend several possibilities for a two-semester course or a series of courses. They also supply many excellent examples and homework problems with answers which illustrate the practical applications of thermodynamic principles.

The first four chapters contain comprehensive discussions of large-scale equipment, units, concepts, definitions, and the properties of pure substances. Chapters 5 through 9 consider the basic first- and second-law principles for situations of both fixed and flowing mass. Chapter 10 discusses power plant and refrigeration cycles in considerable depth. Chapters 11 through 14 present a broad treatment of the application of thermodynamics to mixtures of ideal gases, chemical reactions, equations of state, phase equilibrium, and chemical equilibrium. The remaining five chapters concisely introduce statistical thermodynamics, including fundamental probability and statistics and quantum mechanics. Most of this material is usually included in conventional elementary statistical mechanics-thermodynamics courses; Bose-Einstein and Fermi-Dirac statistics, the Maxwell-Boltzmann velocity distribution, the properties of gases (not considering potential energy between molecules), and the properties of solids (the Einstein and Debye solids, and the electron gas in a metal). While some difficulties may be encountered with the abstract concepts, a study of the many problems should provide students with a workable knowledge of statistical concepts in thermodynamics.

Several shortcomings in the book come to mind for the teaching of potential chemical engineers. First, the book fails to adequately treat the thermodynamics of solutions. The authors' treatment is focused on mixtures of perfect gases, and the lack of a general definition of an ideal mixture may leave the student with the mistaken impression that such mixtures are in some way confined to mixtures of perfect gases. Nothing is mentioned of excess properties, activity coefficients, etc., which are important to the chemical engineer and which, should probably be introduced to him in his beginning thermodynamics course.

Another insufficiency is the meager treatment of intermolecular forces. Nowhere in the text could this reviewer find even a sketch of the intermolecular potential function or how it could be used to explain deviations from the ideal gas law, condensation, or many other fundamental concepts of interest to chemical engineers. Finally, the placement of references at the end of the book makes it difficult, particularly for the self-study student, to examine specific subject matter from other points of view.

Apart from these deficiencies, it can be said that the overall quality of the book is good as it is well organized, easily read and has considerable breadth and flexibility.

PHILLIP M. SIGMUND
PETROLEUM RECOVERY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

Chemical Reactor Theory: An Introduction, Second edition, K. G. Denbigh and J. C. R. Turner, Cambridge University Press, England (1971). 224 pages. $10.00.

The second edition incorporates changes that will appeal to those who would use it as a textbook, although it is basically still a short, concise review of basic chemical reactor theory. This edition features problems within the text, better grouping of material, and a new chapter on mass transfer effects. The book is a very readable summary of chemical kinetics and reactor design and is recommended as an up-to-date review on the subject.

The first two chapters briefly but adequately introduce reactor types and chemical rate expressions. A chapter on tubular reactors and one on continuous stirred tank reactors follows. A discussion of nonideal behavior includes good examples.

Chapter five considers the use of residence-time distributions in estimating reactor performance. This area has perhaps been overemphasized in recent years, but the authors give a practical review on the subject. Placement of this material in a separate chapter makes it easier to assimilate.

The next chapter treats the effect of chemical factors on reactor type. This excellent chapter discusses yield and selectivity and focuses on the practical aspects of reactor choice.

Chapter seven is new and covers mass transfer effects. It adds to the book but is a very brief outline of the subject.

Chapter eight discusses the thermal characteristics of reactors, and Chapter nine considers reactor stability and optimization. New problems have been added, but there is still a lack of comprehensive problems to illustrate these important aspects of chemical behavior.

In summary, the text highlights the important features of reactor design and is recommended as a current review on the subject. The new edition can be used as a text, but additional material should be provided to supplement it.

A. GOMEZPLATA
DEPT. OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20742

Transport Phenomena for Engineers, Louis Theodore, International Textbook Co., Scranton, Pennsylvania (1971). 338 pages. $12.00.

The title of this undergraduate text is misleading, as the book is inadequate