

The general outline of the contents does not deviate so very much from other books of the same kind; the difference lies in the trend and in the stressing everywhere of the relation between chemical and physical properties and molecular and atomic structure.

After 11 introductory chapters on atomic structure, the periodic law, molecular and electronic structure and valence, systematic descriptive inorganic chemistry are treated from p. 264-568 intermingled with chapters on the main subjects of physical chemistry. Organic and biochemistry are treated in chapters 28 and 29 whereas the last chapters are devoted to the chemistry of silicon, thermochemistry and oxidation-reduction equilibria with a concluding chapter on nuclear chemistry. Each chapter contains an ample number of well chosen exercises, which form an essential supplement to the text.

The author has certainly succeeded in writing an eminently well equilibrated modern elementary textbook of chemistry. The already well-known illustrations with a more personal artistic touch than the usual line drawings certainly add to the intellectual delight which the study of this book will no doubt provide to students and teachers alike, as it has done so to the reviewer.

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Advances in Virus Research. Vol. 1. Editors M. A. LAUFFER and K. M. SMITH. Academic Press, New York 1953, 362 pp., 28 illus., \$ 8.00.

As each new review journal is established we ask three questions: Is it necessary? Is it well organised? Does it cover a reasonably well defined field?

Hitherto viruses have been dealt with in journals primarily concerned with biochemistry, microbiology, proteins, enzymes or plant physiology. No doubt they will still get passing reference there but the scale and scope of *Advances in Virus Research* shows that a new coordinating point is now needed. To the first question the answer is therefore; Yes.

To the second question the answer is, unfortunately; No. Many of the articles contain pieces of such muddled English that there is no reason to think the volume has been edited and there are so many typographical mistakes that it is difficult to believe that it has even been proof-read. Furthermore, the articles have clearly been written with quite different objects. The first, by EPSTEIN, is a superficial account of the non-lysogenic bacterial viruses. This article is matched by the brisk canter that SHARP takes round the animal viruses: if he had allowed himself three more pages he could have tucked the plant viruses in too! At the other extreme lies HENLE's masterly account of the influenza viruses; it runs to 86 pages and is a good factual monograph rather than a review. The remaining five are more conventional. Three are almost completely biological; BENNETT on virus interactions, MELNICK on poliomyelitis and BLACK on insect transmission of plant viruses. The last is of especial interest because the multiplication of some viruses in both insects and plants had seemed improbable but is now generally accepted. BERGOLD discusses the insect viruses and concludes with an attempt to popularise a Linnean style binomial nomenclature for them. The time does not yet seem to be ripe for the setting up of a system of nomenclature that implies, as this does, a general classification, for we do not yet know enough properties, intrinsic to the virus, to base an effective classification on. Finally MARKHAM discusses virus nucleic acids; this may seem at first sight too chemical a theme for this review but he confines himself mainly to those aspects of nucleic acid separation and chemistry that could have an immediate effect on the separation and identification of viruses.

The answer to the third question is therefore: Yes. And we wish the new review Journal well but hope the Editors will establish a firmer grip on it.

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RECTIFICATION

Crystalline Catalase from Rat Liver

Drs. V. KENNEDY, LLOYD H. NEWMAN AND F. FRIEDBERG feel obliged to report that their note, entitled "A Convenient Method for Preparing Crystalline Catalase from Rat Liver", which has appeared in this journal, Vol. 12 (1953) 487, is erroneous.

The crystalline material obtained is hemoglobin and not catalase, as activity studies indicate.