

Book Reviews

Developments in Ionic Polymers – 1. Edited by Alan D. Wilson and Havard J. Prosser. Applied Science Publishers Ltd, London. 1983. ix + 336 pp. Price: £34.00

The liberal minded physical chemist will always find a book on ionic polymers such as this interesting since, in one way or another, he will have come across them in real life and problems on their behaviour may well have been the subject of research or at least reflection. Similarly, all will understand what an ionic polymer is, but not all realise that oxide glasses fall within this compass, or that many cements are just such materials. These are strange bedfellows for ionic polysaccharides, which is the subject of a further chapter, and which is most likely to reflect the interests of the readers of this journal though, unfortunately, there is little exciting or novel. However, there are more general chapters on the structure and properties of ionomers, conformational effects of ion-pair clustering and phase demixing.

All this is good stuff but, I suspect, unlikely to make you purchase the book unless you are especially thirsty for knowledge. However, there are within the covers of the book many ideas and concepts which have not been adequately explored in the field of polysaccharides and the reading of this volume may provoke research scientists to think afresh on some issues. At least, therefore, arrange for your library to acquire it so that you can peruse it at your leisure.

J. M. V. Blanshard