

Book Reviews

China Chemical Industry 1985/86. World Chemical Industry Yearbook. Edited by the Scientific and Technical Information Research Institute of the Ministry of Chemical Industry, Beijing, China, published by VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, Weinheim, FRG, 1986, 444 pp. ISBN 3 527 26537 6. Price: Hardcover, DM 190.00/US\$110.00 subscription price. DM 225.00/US\$130.30 individual volume price.

A review in the strictest sense of the term is not entirely feasible, since the volume is in itself a review. The relatively recent opening of China generally to the outside world is now a historical fact, hopefully a developing and continuing one. Information on the chemical industry in China is now made available in this extremely detailed study. Major trade areas of the industry are outlined and data pertinent to the current status of the industry with respect, for example, to major production interests, imports and exports, resources and reserves is presented, together with comparative data for the leading industrial nations of the world.

Over 200 manufacturing companies are described, with listings of the principal products manufactured by them. Data on the dyestuff industry is, naturally, only a small fraction of the overall information presented, but the importance of sulphur and disperse dyes is of interest.

The volume can best be summarised in two words—statistics and information; both are presented with commendable clarity. Anyone interested in keeping abreast of this new and expanding area of world trade and in either extending or establishing commercial or technical contacts within it, will find the book invaluable.

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