

Book Review

Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry. Vols. A9–A10. VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, Weinheim, FRG, 1987. Vol. A9 (ISBN 3-527-20109-2; xv + 653 pp.), Vol. A10 (ISBN 3-527-20110-6; xv + 665 pp.). Price: DM465.00 per volume.

Further volumes in this encyclopedia cover topics from Dithiocarbamic Acid and Derivatives to Ethanol (Vol. A9) and Ethanolamine and Propanolamines to Fibres (Vol. A10). Of principal interest to Journal readers will be the general survey of dyes (Vol. A9) and the chapters on fibres (Vol. A10), although other items such as those on dry cleaning, emulsions, epoxides and epoxy resins, ethanolamines and propanolamines, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid and related chelating agents, ethylene glycol and ethylene oxide, fats, fatty oils and fatty acids and on felt will be of interest in some way to some readers of the Journal.

The Dyes chapter is a general survey only (52 pp., 248 refs), specific dye chemistry being dealt with more fully under the appropriate chemical classification. The basics of dye classification and aspects of unit operations in manufacture, applications to fibres, colour, colour measurement and formulation, and the analysis of dyes are reviewed, but only in the context of a general outline survey. The four chapters on fibres (excluding a well presented and amply illustrated review of fibre optics) open with a general survey (25 pp., 75 refs) of the field, including characterisation, spinning, prerequisites for fibre formation and properties prerequisite in textiles. More detailed chapters follow, covering an extensive range of topics pertaining to fibre structure (34 pp., 46 refs), general production technology (56 pp., 107 refs) and synthetic organic fibres (89 pp., 310 refs).

The chapters are, in the usual style of these volumes, balanced and comprehensive reviews, amply illustrated and presented so as to be both readable and informative. The coalition of facts and words into concisely formulated and understandable reviews is one of the major factors governing the excellence of the present Ullmann series. These two volumes maintain the standards established and reference to the Encyclopedia must be mandatory for anyone seeking an initial general review of the topics covered within it.

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