

been little attempt to standardise on units in this book. Non-SI units abound. Incorrect symbolism for units is a feature.

Other examples of poor editing include the fact that duplication of the theme 'Paint for Plastics' arises (Chapters 3 and 7), as well as in the main chapter for this theme (Chapter 6). Similarly 'Paint Testing' is scattered throughout Chapters 4, 5, and 7. It would have been better if this subject could have been handled in a more consolidated manner. The same types of comment could be made of the treatments given to application techniques. The result is that application is given a cursory description on five occasions instead of being properly handled once.

Comparing the contents of the book with the stated objectives, as outlined in the preface, we find that:

- coating formulation aspects are well described;
- manufacturing aspects are poorly described;
- application aspects are poorly described;
- sales, quality assurance aspects are well described.

Each contributor has been let down by poor editing. There is too much overlap and duplication. There are many significant omissions. For the quoted price, we would have expected, and have a right to expect, superior quality to that presented. The contents are not particularly up-to-date or comprehensive, though some sections are informative. The book is not of 'exceptional interest'.

**A. Weakley & J. T. Guthrie**

**Industrial Organic Pigments.** By W. Herbst and K. Hunger. VCH, Weinheim, Germany, 1993. xiv + 630 pp. ISBN 3-527-28161-4. Price: DM296.

The publication of the English version of this book, which has become the definitive work on organic pigments in its original German version, will be warmly welcomed by all those interested in colour chemistry in the English-speaking world. The book, some 630 pages long, subdivided into five chapters with 95 figures and 38 tables, provides a comprehensive coverage of all aspects of organic pigment chemistry and technology, justifying the cost of DM296. The first, and longest, chapter provides a brief overview of the various classes of organic pigments, followed by a detailed survey of the range of technical properties required by the pigments with particular emphasis on how these are influenced by chemical and physical structural features. The chapter concludes with a useful account

of the technology of the applications into which these pigments are incorporated. The next three chapters provide a comprehensive up-to-date description of the range of commercial organic pigments, their structures, syntheses, properties and relative suitabilities for a range of applications. The final chapter concerns ecology, toxicology and legislation, although, perhaps surprisingly in view of the increasing importance of these topics for the pigments industry, this is a rather short chapter lacking the depth of critical discussion found elsewhere. At the end of the book there is a particularly useful review of the most important reactions in schematic form. This book is set to become an important reference work for industrial and academic practitioners in the field of organic pigments, and for students of colour chemistry. It is to be hoped that a similar volume dealing with the equally important field of inorganic pigments will appear at some time in the future.

**Robert M. Christie**