

BOOK REVIEW

Review : Isotopes - Essential Chemistry and Applications, J.A. Elvidge and J.R. Jones, ed.

This volume contains reviews presented at a Chemical Society Symposium at the University of Surrey in July 1979. Ten chapters cover the preparation, analysis and application of compounds labelled with stable and radioactive isotopes. This side by side treatment of stable and radioisotopes is somewhat unusual but emphasises the complementary nature of the two technologies. The coverage of such an extensive field in a moderate size volume cannot hope to be comprehensive and indeed no such treatment has been attempted. Topics have been chosen to give overviews of the current status in selected areas of the technology. Nevertheless a fair balance has been achieved between synthetic aspects; analysis (2 chapters on NMR and 1 on Mass Spectrometry) and applications covering both the chemical and life sciences.

There is some variation in the depth of coverage. For example, the review on ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy in medicinal chemistry would serve as an introductory survey whilst the chapter on ^2H and ^3H NMR gives a state of the art report with much experimental detail.

All the chapters include a very useful list of references citing both recent literature (1979) and other reviews of importance which should give the reader an easy access to the literature of each topic.

The table of contents may be frustrating in a reference volume of this type. Although each review contains extensive subheadings the entire chapter (40-50 pages) has to be scanned to locate a particular topic, since only the page numbers of chapter headings are given.

Overall, this moderately priced collection of reviews should prove useful to anyone with an interest in isotope technology and especially to those new to the field.

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