Separation Science and Technology
Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713708471

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTROPHORESIS SYMPOSIUM

Samuel Raymond

To cite this Article Raymond, Samuel(1972) 'INTRODUCTION TO ELECTROPHORESIS SYMPOSIUM', Separation Science and Technology, 7: 6, 659
To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00372367208057975
URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00372367208057975

SEPARATION SCIENCE 7(6), p. 659, 1972

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTROPHORESIS SYMPOSIUM

The following papers comprise the substance of a symposium on modern electrophoresis techniques, held at the Eastern Analytical Symposium in New York, November, 1971. The papers were chosen to illustrate the three main areas of development in this field: (1) electrophoresis theory, (2) advanced techniques, and (3) clinical applications.

It is evident that electrophoresis theory has come a long way from the classical era. The introduction of nonlinear effects in the electric field and in the supporting medium has led to astonishing increases in resolution and separation. These, in turn, have attracted hopes of really significant applications for this technique in clinical analysis.

Advances in electrophoresis technique have been generated by the combined efforts of academic research and commercial enterprise. New buffer systems have been combined with new ways of putting these elements together to produce new electrophoresis technique with results unforeseen in the classical era.

Finally, an important area of application for electrophoresis lies in the clinical laboratory. Clinical pathologists have always been keenly interested in the possible diagnostic value of analyzing serum proteins. It must be admitted that the potentiality of this analysis has so far exceeded its actual results. This can be traced partly to the tendency among clinicians to accept the classical electrophoretic analysis into albumin, α_1-, α_2-, β-, and α-globulin, and paraprotein as defining real physiological entities and partly to the lack of specificity inherent in the usual clinical electrophoretic pattern. Recently we have seen an increasing effort to make electrophoresis really useful as an everyday clinical test. Although much progress has been made, much still remains to be done. We must all wonder what the next few years will show.

SAMUEL RAYMOND