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Introduction to the Symposium

Klaus H. Altgelt; Leon Segal

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMPOSIUM

Gel permeation chromatography has grown at a stunning rate both in technical sophistication and in the scope of application since J. C. Moore made it practical around 1964. Meanwhile GPC has gained a key position in polymer chemistry. It is advancing rapidly to find its place among the important chromatographic methods in new fields outside polymer science where its unique ability to separate by molecular size can also be put to profitable use.

The proceedings of the GPC Symposium held in February 1970 at Houston bear out both of these accomplishments. They demonstrate once again the manifold applications GPC has found in the polymer field, and they show further how it supplements existing methods or opens up new approaches in petroleum chemistry. Indeed, part of this Symposium was held with the latter purpose in mind, i.e., to expose the petroleum chemist to this new powerful tool and to indicate to him some of the results that have been obtained with its use.

In setting up the Symposium it appeared desirable to provide an introduction that would allow any chemist who had never worked with GPC to understand the basics and then to enable him to follow the advanced presentations. Therefore, the Symposium was divided into four parts: (1) A simple, basic introduction; (2) a lucid, yet sophisticated, review of the latest theories and evaluation methods; (3) new developments in the technique; and (4) applications in polymer and petroleum chemistry.

Hopefully, this approach will serve to familiarize many chemists with GPC and help them to conduct their research or process control even more efficiently than before.

KLAUS H. ALTGELT
LEON SEGAL