

## BOOK REVIEWS

BIOCHEMICAL PROBLEMS OF LIPIDS, edited by G. Popják and E. Le Breton. Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York 1, N. Y. 1956. 510 pages,  $6\frac{1}{4} \times 10$  inches, illustrated and indexed. Price \$10.75.

This book is the printed proceedings of the Second International Conference on the Biochemical Problems of Lipids held at Ghent, Belgium, in 1955.

The eighty papers read are arranged into four sections. The fields covered include those concerned with physical and chemical properties, methods of separation, structure, metabolism, biosynthesis enzyme systems, phospholipids, transport and miscellaneous problems.

A number of interesting things appear in this book. Highly unsaturated fatty acids are still called Vitamin F by contributor de Iongh. Another on the effect of unsaturated fatty acids on skin by Basnayake and Sinclair and finally a contribution by Setala, *et al.* on co-carcinogenic lipids. This last paper discusses the role of lipophilic-hydrophilic substances, nonionic, anionic and cationic on their effect as co-carcinogens.

The addresses appear in several languages. The book is indexed.

If you are interested in the problems connected with fat technology, this book will be useful reading.—M. G. DENAVARRE.

WOOL WAX, CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, by E. V. Truter. Inter-

science Publishers, Inc., New York 1, N. Y. 1956. 380 pages,  $6 \times 9\frac{3}{4}$  in., illustrated and indexed. Price \$8.75.

This very comprehensive book on wool wax (lanolin) starts with the fleece content, covers isolation, refining, the chemistry and uses.

A chapter of 26 pages on "Some Properties of Emulsions" though at first seeming out of place, actually explains how the acids, alcohols and esters of lanolin affect emulsifying power and stability. It is interesting to note that 7-oxysterol has a water number of 320 (compared to 650 for the mixed alcohols), resulting in emulsions of poor stability.

It is further interesting to learn that while there are three basic methods of wool wax removal from fibers, scouring with soap and water accounts for 99 per cent of the world's wool processing, resulting in wool wax and lanolin.

This reviewer does not feel that the chapter on lanolin saponification is as complete as it could be.

The chapter on the isolation of cholesterol almost seems like a part of the previous chapter.

The main fault with this book is that it is strongly British in its coverage. More could be written on many facets of the book that would include work from other countries. Australian, German and U. S. developments could be better covered. It is granted that there is probably more wool washed and wool wax produced as a result in

England than anywhere in the world. But keep in mind it was the production of "lanolin" by the Germans from wool scouring waste that makes the volume of lanolin used in cosmetics, soaps and pharmaceuticals second in volume to lubricants.

The chapters dealing with wool wax chemistry appear to be well done.

The author writes with authority. The few points mentioned above do not detract from the fundamental value of this work. The book is interestingly written and quite well organized. You will want it as a reference.—M. G. DENAVARRE.

THE CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF WAXES, by Albin H. Warth. Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York 22, N. Y. 1956. 940 pages, 6 × 9 inches, illustrated and indexed. Price \$18.

This second edition of Dr. Warth's earlier work brings up to date the advances that have taken place in wax technology.

It is doubtful if the author means to tell us that cetyl alcohol is produced from spermaceti by hydrogenation on page 23 of Chapter 2 which is otherwise full of many useful data on fat and wax derivatives.

In the next chapter, under liquid animal waxes, the newer liquid lanolin fractions could be mentioned. Lanolin is otherwise well described.

The chapter on natural waxes discusses almost every imaginable wax known in nature.

The discussion of earth waxes is most enlightening. Synthetic waxes include the famous I. G. waxes now called Gersthofen wax. Fischer-Tropsch waxes are included in the discussion.

Considering only the cosmetic portion of Chapter 10 on wax uses

in industry, one feels that it is quite impossible to do the subject justice in so short a space. The data are and have to be superficial. But perhaps to those interested only in a thumbnail sketch of wax usage by various industries, the present material is adequate.

All-in-all, this is a valuable reference and needed by all cosmetic chemists.—M. G. DENAVARRE.

KOSMETIK HUETE, by Dr. Heinz Weyhbrecht and Dr. Lieselotte Endlerlein. Paracelsus Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany. 1956. 123 pages, size 8 × 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches. Price: DM 7.20.

This book represents a collaborative effort of a dermatologist and a "cosmetologist," the latter being the directress of the "Academy of Cosmetics" in Stuttgart. It is written for the lay reader with the avowed purpose of telling her what she may properly expect of the many cosmetic preparations available to her, and where to be on guard against false or exaggerated claims. The subject matter is discussed under the following major chapter headings: beautifying cosmetics (make-up), skin structure in relation to cosmetic care, conditioning cosmetics, cleansing the skin, home care in special cases, the cosmetic salon, wrinkles and climatic damage, the rôle of the beautician or dermatologist in the treatment of skin defects, dermatological cosmetics and the current status of the professional beautician.

Although one might take exception to some of the statements made in this book, its common sense approach to, and honest treatment of, the total subject should be appreciated by the interested layman who wishes to use good cosmetics in a

rational manner, and who desires to protect herself against disappointment engendered by the discrepancy between the advertised prom-

ise and the observed performance of any given product.—EMIL G. KLARMANN, Lehn & Fink Products Corporation.