Book Reviews

HANDBOOK OF INDUSTRIAL TOXICOLOGY, by E. R. Plunkett. Chemical Publishing Company, Inc., New York, N. Y. 440 pages, indexed. Price $16.50.

This book is designed primarily for use by health officers and physicians who may be called upon to administer aid in cases of intoxication.

The book is essentially an alphabetical listing of commonly used industrial chemicals which are either toxic or irritating to the human body. Each listing includes synonyms and a description of the chemical, probable occupational exposure and preventive measures, the threshold limiting values as established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and the prominent symptoms of toxicity. One can find little fault with this arrangement, and a brief volume of this type appears to be a sensible and practical approach.

The author stresses insecticides in his selection of chemicals for inclusion in this book. Some toxic compounds are not included in this list, while substances of questionable toxicity and of little commercial use are included: Tetrachlorosalicylanilide is no longer used in soaps; tin oxides are erroneously classified as cosmetic ingredients; among the missing are all types of detergents, sodium tripolyphosphate, and the bromates; potassium hydroxide, lead salts, magnesium sulfate, and Paris Green certainly should be included in a volume on toxicology in preference to "wood."

The book is relatively free of typographical errors and contains much to recommend it to those who may depend on it in the performance of their professional or Samaritan functions.—M. M. RIEGER—Warner-Lambert Research Institute.

SURVEY OF PROGRESS IN CHEMISTRY, edited by Arthur F. Scott. Academic Press, New York. 1966. 292 pages, illustrated and indexed. Price $7.95.

Volumes I and II of this series were reviewed in 1965 (Vol. 16, pg. 542). This, the third volume, continues the excellent presentations of chemical topics which began in 1963 with Volume I. The five chapters in the latest volume are concerned with photosynthesis, flame chemistry, kinetic isotope effects, asymmetric reduction, and stereoregular polymers.

It is unlikely that cosmetic chem-

ists would be particularly interested in flame chemistry, although this chapter appears to be a suitable introduction to this subject. Similar comments could also apply to the chapter on asymmetric reduction; but the use of these techniques in terpene chemistry certainly has a bearing on the synthesis of perfume ingredients.

On the other hand, the remaining chapters appear to this reviewer to deserve study by chemists engaged in the development of consumer products. Of special interest is the chapter on stereoregular polymers, which have found application in the manufacture of some of the most important packaging materials available today.

This chapter alone is well worth the price of the book. The subject of the kinetic effects of isotopes has been explored by organic and physical chemists for a quarter of a century. Unfortunately, this phenomenon has occasionally been neglected in studies of the *in vivo* metabolism of tagged chemicals. The very basic importance of photosynthesis need not be belabored here. Suffice it to say that the recently claimed photosynthesis in the absence of living cells holds great promise for supplying the food requirements of future generations.

As anticipated in the earlier review of Volumes I and II, this survey by topics has proved valuable, and all of us look forward to forthcoming volumes in this series.—M. M. Rieger —Warner-Lambert Research Institute.

THE CONDENSED CHEMICAL DICTIONARY, 7th Edition, edited by Arthur and Elizabeth Rose. Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York, N. Y. 1966. 1044 pages. Price $17.50.

This reviewer had the pleasure to review what appears to be this book's companion volume, Encyclopedia of Chemistry by Clark and Hawley, several months ago. Readers of these columns may recall the breadth and scope of the contents of this encyclopedia. The Condensed Chemical Dictionary, on the other hand, is a reference volume, the main value of which is to be found in its large number of entries.

It is next to impossible to describe the contents of this volume except by stating that in its pages can be found about 40,000–50,000 separate descriptions of pure chemicals, trade name chemicals, and related information. The alphabetical inclusion of trademarks and the list of almost 600 different suppliers of chemicals makes this volume not only a desk reference for the chemist but a guide useful for purchasing agents and chemical executives.

The individual entries supply a wealth of useful information, the nomenclature is good, and the book appears to be essentially free of typographical errors. Although the price is relatively high, this dictionary should pay for itself with the time it can save those who are seeking quick authoritative information—M. M. Rieger—Warner-Lambert Research Institute.