

Book Reviews

MY FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS, by E. Emmet Reid. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1972. 220 pages, illustrated. Price \$10.00.

This reviewer first met Dr. Reid in the early 1950's at a Sulfur Chemistry Conference at the University of Indiana. He was then about 80, elderly, but still vigorous, alert, and active. His six-volume masterwork, "Organic Chemistry of Bivalent Sulfur" (1958-66), had yet to be issued. Some 20 years later, with numerous publications and patents in the interim, this autobiography has appeared. Dr. Reid is still elderly—one hesitates to say old—and his eyesight has failed. But he still calculates molecular weights in his head and is now assembling data for a book on preparative sulfur chemistry. No wonder he has referred to his autobiography as "an interim report."

This book will teach you little about chemistry; it will teach you much about being a chemist. Its pages are full of the names of chemists, well known and less famous, who have been associated with the author at Baylor, Johns Hopkins, The Chemical Warfare Service, and

many consultant companies. The text glows with the inner light of a man who knew he wanted to teach chemistry and do research, and who succeeded in his desires. In doing so, he profited relatively little in a material sense, but he enriched the lives and careers of those he taught and counseled, and thus enriched his own.

Unlike "The Organic Chemistry of Bivalent Sulfur," this book is not a necessary addition to the technical library. One cannot truthfully say "this book is required for all those who . . ." Yet it is to be recommended highly. For those of us who have been associated with some areas of organic sulfur chemistry, it will provide several hours of pleasant nostalgia. Perhaps more important, however, may be its effect on younger chemists. For them it will open the windows on an era in American chemistry now unfortunately gone and will perhaps give them some new insights on what it still means to be a chemist, to teach, and to do research. E. Emmet Reid, truly a gentleman, a scholar, and a scientist, in his hundredth year has produced another important piece of work.—EDWARD F. LEVY—The Gillette Company, Toiletries Division.

MCCUTCHEON'S DETERGENTS AND EMULSIFIERS, 1972 ANNUAL, McCutcheon Division, Allured Publishing Corp., New Jersey, 1972. 232 pages, indexed. Price \$10.00.

This new edition retains the overall format of previous editions listing the trade name, manufacturer, class and formula, form, properties, and uses of detergent and emulsifiers available in the U.S. As such it is a very valuable compilation, although by its very nature the contents cannot change much from year to year. However, there are a number of new materials included in this edition and the increasing use of HLB numbers to define a given detergent is reflected in the expanded HLB index which now includes materials with HLB's up to 42. Unfortunately, in doing this the editors have omitted a few compounds such as Akyporox RLM100 and Zonyl A, which, since they do appear in the main listing of the book, are apparently still available.

There is a concise, but fairly complete, discussion, by J. C. Harris, of the composition of detergents, builders, detergent additives, and the status of the various Government and local laws and actions concerning

phosphates, NTA, enzymes, bacteriostats, bactericides, flame retardancy, and labeling. The absence of a discussion on sodium carbonate is, I think, a serious omission. Nevertheless, this addition will be most useful to chemists who need an overall view of the current situation.

There are remarkably few typographical errors and the printing is uniformly clear and readable. A serious drawback of all editions to date, including the current one, is the inclusion of terms such as "fortified" (page 53), "modified" (page 172), "blend of solvents and detergents" (page 172), and such general terms as "alkyl aryl" or "long-chain." If more complete information cannot be obtained from the manufacturer then it might be worth considering omitting these materials. The inclusion of the telephone numbers of all suppliers is a valuable addition in this respect which will be useful to many users.

Despite these shortcomings, this year's McCutcheon's is an excellent book to look for materials for use in such widely diverse areas as detergents, metal cleaners, foods, and the manufacture of polyurethane foams. It should be on every chemist's book shelf.—A. H. GILBERT—Lever Brothers Co.