

**Vistas in Free-Radical Chemistry**

Edited by Dr. W. A. Waters. (International Series of Monographs on Organic Chemistry, Vol. 1. Supplement No. 3 to *Tetrahedron*). Pp. ix+251. (London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1959.) 75s. net.

**T**HIS book is published in memory of Dr. Morris S. Kharasch, and is a fitting tribute to one of the great organic chemists of this century. A complete list of the published papers of Kharasch and his collaborators is given, and is followed by a selection of twelve papers which are presented in full; these include descriptions of Kharasch's early work on the discovery and exploitation of the 'peroxide effect' and some recent work on polymerization reactions. Many of us have a lesson to learn from Kharasch's attention to detail, which has led to several important discoveries. F. R. Mayo and C. Walling pay personal tributes to Kharasch, and give very interesting accounts of their work in collaboration with him. An account of modern work and trends in free-radical reactions in solution is given by W. A. Waters.

The book concludes with chapters on homolytic aliphatic and homolytic aromatic substitution, by H. C. Brown and D. H. Hey, and some other aspects of free-radical chemistry, including a concise account of free-radical reactions in gases by K. O. Kutschke and E. W. R. Steacie. The object of including these chapters is to illustrate the effect of Kharasch's research on the development of free-radical chemistry; this is now such a large subject that a comprehensive treatment would not be possible in only 250 pages. The aspects selected will be, on the whole, of interest to organic chemists, particularly those working on free-radical reactions.

The volume is a useful historic record of Kharasch's contribution to free-radical reactions in solution.

A. B. CALLEAR

**Public Relations and Management**

By David Finn. (Reinhold Management Science Series.) Pp. xiii+175. (New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1960.) 36s. net.

**S**USPICION of those who court publicity has led the British people to look askance at men and women who act as public relations officers for their organizations. This suspicion has been strengthened by some of the public relations practitioners whose efforts to influence the Press have been, to say the least, somewhat unsavoury.

Against this canvas, genuine public relations officers have had difficulty in establishing themselves and, particularly, in showing that their jobs consist of considerably more than preparing hand-outs for the Press. Yet many companies are becoming aware that it is not enough to provide needed goods and services for the community; to obtain maximum results the company must present an image to the public which will persuade more and more people to make use of those goods and services. The public relations officer is concerned to influence public opinion favourably towards his company.

David Finn is an experienced public relations consultant in the United States and, in this book, does much to show the worth of effective public relations to a company. He strips the gloss from the brassy publicity-seeking public relations officer, and illustrates how the practitioner can create a

favourable climate of opinion for his company by examining every corporate act to see what effect it will have on public opinion and how projects should be designed to win public support. Besides managing directors, this modest, well-reasoned case should appeal to many heads of institutions outside the world of industry.

T. H. HAWKINS

**Homotopy Theory**

By Sze-Tsen Hu. (Pure and Applied Mathematics, Vol. 8.) Pp. xiii+347. (New York: Academic Press, Inc.; London: Academic Press, Inc. (London), Ltd., 1959.) 11 dollars.

**A** COMPREHENSIVE introductory account of the rapidly growing field of homotopy theory is welcome; the present volume is rather less concise than Hilton's Cambridge Tract, and differs from it somewhat in content. It is not altogether easy reading, and a really sound knowledge of elementary algebraic topology is an essential preliminary. The main problem in homotopy theory is the extension problem studied in Chapters 1 and 2; fibre spaces and mapping spaces fill Chapter 3. The next four chapters deal mainly with homotopy groups and cohomotopy groups, and the final group of four chapters is concerned chiefly with spectral homology theory. Specialists in a domain which is expanding so quickly may quarrel with some of the omissions; but the young topologist must be grateful for so well-balanced and clear an account. There are exercises to each chapter, but the reader must be warned that these range from the trivial to the impossible, the latter being those which merely summarize results to be found in the periodical literature of the subject; a clear separation between genuine exercises and bibliographical annotations might have been a better plan.

T. A. A. BROADBENT

**Dictionary of Nutrition and Food Technology**

By Dr. Arnold E. Bender. Pp. vii+143. (London: Butterworths Scientific Publications, 1960.) 30s.

**D**R. BENDER'S *Dictionary* sets out to interpret the technical terms used by the many different scientific and practical groups who take part in the expanding knowledge of nutrition. Practical workers in food technology may well be lost in the jargon of the biochemist, while the scientific workers may need definition of technological terms. The dictionary covers the most common biochemical, bacteriological, chemical and technological processes in food science, with brief descriptions also of equipment used in the laboratory and in manufacturing processes.

The sources of information listed in the introduction to the dictionary provide a useful nutrition bibliography, although there are some serious omissions, such as the failure to give full references for the publications of the U.S. National Research Council and the Nutrition Committee of the British Medical Association. Some of the information on special diets is not from the most up-to-date sources and some misleading statements, such as the correlation of glossitis with ariboflavinosis, need to be corrected. The choice of foods for which composition figures are given seems rather arbitrary, and the sources of the food analyses need some further explanation. However, in spite of such flaws, the dictionary is a useful addition to the nutrition bookshelf and should solve many questions of terminology.

A. M. COPPING