

REVIEW FOR CHEMISTRY IN BRITAIN

Cosmetic raw material analysis and quality. Ed. Hilda Butler. pp.141. Micelles Press, Weymouth. (£25.00.)

There is nothing that is fundamentally new in this volume, but it does bring together all of the organic fatty materials used in cosmetic products. In this respect it is extremely useful.

I found the introduction and forwards to the volume to be helpful and Hilda Butler has done a splendid job in keeping each section simple, concise and uncluttered. The individual chapters written by respected scientists from well-known cosmetic houses, added strength and credibility to the information provided.

When I first read through the book I thought that it was an excellent volume for an analytical chemist (whether experienced or new to the bench), since it contained a wealth of chromatograms, absorption curves, nuclear magnetic resonance spectra and many other data curves and charts. It also contained a great number of analytical methods and techniques.

This is an excellent book, I thought from the title it would end up in the analytical laboratory, but I am afraid they will have to buy their own copy, because it contains too much useful information to leave the research library.

The IFSCC (International Federation of Cosmetic Chemists) monographs. These slim volumes are an excellent way of becoming “an instant expert” on a specific subject.

Number 1. Principles of Product Evaluation: Objective Sensory methods (£14.00) Anon. pp.62.

If you thought that you knew everything about product evaluation, then this is not the book for you, since the chances are that it will prove you wrong. It covers all the techniques that you would expect, such as paired comparisons, difference tests, triangle test, median tests, etc., and also deals with the statistical mathematics as well.

This volume is a happy medium of what you need to know and how you need to do it. It does not attempt to teach statistics, but it would enable a chemist to plan and conduct a trial and come out with results that were statistically sound.

Number 2. Fundamentals of stability testing (£9.00) Anon. pp.23.

This monograph should be adopted as the industry standard, since it covers all the aspects of temperature, humidity and cycling tests as well as freeze/thaw, light exposure and vibration testing.

I would buy this volume for every chemist and make it a part of the company's code of practice.

Number 3. An introduction to rheology (£11.50) Dennis Laba. pp.35.

This is a subject normally accompanied with pages of complex mathematics, which this slim volume (35 pages) has managed to avoid entirely. I would recommend that any student of rheology reads this volume before any text book, since it makes the whole topic so easy to understand, introduces the terminology, the means of measurement and also looks at the important raw materials.

Number 4. will be Emulsions and emulsification (£14.00) not reviewed.

The book and three monographs are excellent value for money, most useful for new scientists, but worth reading by even the most senior scientist.

Anthony C. Dweck

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