

1939-05

Book Notices

The Ohio Journal of Science. v39 n3 (May, 1939), 132

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Modern Inorganic Chemistry

After searching long and arduously for a book suitable as a text in a course in advanced inorganic chemistry, it is pleasing to find one which serves that need admirably. The authors depart entirely from the practice, too long followed in this field, of presenting a dictionary or encyclopedia of chemical compounds, their properties, preparation, and uses. Instead the authors believe that "it is more illuminating to deal with related compounds and special topics, which provide, as it were, a cross-section of the subject. To take a case in point, it is more instructive to treat the hydrides as a related group than in isolation, as compounds of the parent elements." The wisdom of this view is amply demonstrated.

To anyone, student, teacher, or research worker, desiring a thoroughly up-to-date treatment of the theories of inorganic chemistry together with a resumé of recent advances in the knowledge of the elements and their inorganic compounds, Emeleus and Anderson may be recommended without hesitation. The amount of information assembled here is astonishing. While it is hardly possible to mention all topics discussed, some idea of the breadth of the work can be seen from the chapter titles: atomic structure and the periodic system, atomic weights and isotopes, structure of molecules, co-ordination compounds and inorganic stereochemistry, poly-acids and silicates, hydrogen and the hydrides, free radicals of short life, non-metallic oxides, recent chemistry of the non-metals and of the metals, peroxides and per-acids, metallic carbonyls and nitrosyls, intermetallic and interstitial compounds, reactions in liquid ammonia and liquid sulfur dioxide, and radioactivity and atomic disintegration.

No work of this kind can be "easy" reading in its entirety, but this book is remarkably so. Typographical and factual errors are few.—*W. C. Fernelius.*

Modern Aspects of Inorganic Chemistry, by H. J. Emeleus and J. S. Anderson. xi+536 pp. New York, D. Von Nostrand Co., 1938. \$9.00.