

BOOK REVIEW

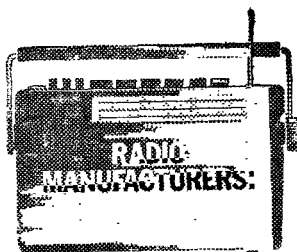
Chemistry for the Engineering and Applied Sciences by W. Steedman, R. B. Snadden and I. H. Anderson. Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1980, pp. 449 + viii, price \$ 17.95.

The volume under review is a general chemistry text addressed to prospective graduates in engineering and other applied sciences. The book covers various aspects of both fundamental and applied chemistry in 29 chapters. The first six chapters describe chemical bonding and structure, the next thirteen chapters (7-19) discuss a number of topics in applied sciences ranging from corrosion and extraction of metals to water treatment and desalination. The last ten chapters provide an introduction to organic chemistry together with an account of applied organic materials such as coal, explosives, high polymers, lubricants and detergents.

Since the range of topics covered is really very wide, the treatment suffers from being essentially qualitative and brief. For instance, in Chapter 1 which describes atomic structure and chemical bonding—the very foundation of modern chemistry—there is no mention of wave nature of electron and the Schrödinger's wave equation. In the treatment of topics such as atomic structure, chemical bonding, structure and thermodynamics, a little more of quantitative rigour would have been valuable. In addition, a list of references where further reading material could be had on various topics discussed in the book is an important omission which I am sure the authors would rectify in a subsequent edition.

There are several worked-out examples and a list of useful exercises at the end of each chapter. There is also a good number of illustrative diagrams and figures throughout the text which add to the value of the book. The strong point of the book is the chapters on applied aspects of chemistry and the book is certainly a valuable addition to libraries of institutions where engineering and applied sciences are taught at the graduate level.

J. GOPALAKRISHNAN



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