new publication will supplement them and provide a new medium through which the affiliated societies may make announcements of their programs and of their undertakings of general interest.

There is a labor and financial aspect of the establishment of this publication which merits a few comments. To send out through the mails a communication from the office of the permanent secretary to all the nearly 24,000 members of the association is so costly in labor and money that there is always pressure to refrain from doing so. Many of these desirable communications will appear substantially in this publication at much less cost. As a matter of fact, taking all the items of labor, envelopes, paper and postage into account, the cheapest mail service hitherto available to the association for communication to all members is about eight times as costly as through this *A.A.A.S Bulletin*.—THE EDITORS.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

OIL FIELDS

Stratigraphic Type Oil Fields. A Symposium. A. I. LEVORSEN, editor. xii + 902 pp. Illustrated. Tulsa, Okla.: American Association of Petroleum Geologists. $5.50 ($4.50, members).

PETROLEUM geologists have long construed their task as primarily a search for structure in known or prospective oil-bearing regions. They have been prone to think of oil reservoirs as the product of deformative geological processes. With the rapid accumulation during recent years of descriptive literature of numerous oil fields, it has been increasingly evident that many effectively sealed reservoirs are not the sole product of deformation. Many are primarily lenticular sand bodies, favorably interleaved in oil-bearing horizons or occurring on planes of unconformities. Some are the result of variable porosity and permeability in either limestones or sands; others are due to pinch-out up-dip of sand horizons or to the erosional truncation of sands, subsequently overlapped by an impervious cover. The East Texas field, the largest ever discovered, is thought to belong in the latter category.

Though the true character of many such reservoirs had previously been appreciated, the discovery of the East Texas field brought sharply into focus the importance of the so-called stratigraphic trap in our search for new fields. It aroused anew the suspicion that the discovery of a large reserve of oil contained in such traps awaited the evolution of a better geological technique, capable of coping with this more difficult problem. Areal and subsurface geology, geophysical exploration based on seismic or gravity determinations—all are designed chiefly to decipher structural conditions and often fall short of offering clues to the presence of stratigraphic traps.

The present volume includes descriptions of thirty-seven oil and gas fields situated in the various producing districts of the United States which illustrate the types of stratigraphic traps mentioned above. It presents factual data which should be useful in the further search for pools of this type. "New principles of future oil discovery depend to a large extent on an understanding of past experience. . . . The present volume . . . is intended as a factual background on which a further approach may be made to the causes of oil and gas accumulation and also as a basis for the reasoning necessary to future oil-field discovery" (Foreword).

The large majority of the papers deal with the vagaries of sand deposition which result in clear-cut examples of stratigraphic traps. Of especial interest are those which reconstruct paleogeographic conditions to show that the sand bodies were deposited as off-shore bars, channel filling or other familiar shoreline phenomena.

Obviously sedimentation is the controlling geological factor throughout this symposium. The volume should therefore prove most useful as a reference work in this field. Another very useful feature is the extensive annotated bibliography including 227 references to papers dealing with the same subject matter in recent geological literature.

W. E. WRATHER

DALLAS, TEXAS

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Identification of Pure Organic Compounds. Tables of Data on Selected Compounds of Order I. By E. H. HUNTRESS and S. P. MULLIKEN. xvii + 691 pp. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 1941. $7.50.

ORDER I consists of compounds of carbon with hydrogen, or with hydrogen and oxygen. In this respect it resembles Volume I of Mulliken's four-volume work of the same title, which appeared in 1904. The general purpose, plan and function of the two, as well as the basis of primary classification, are similar. In other respects, however, they are quite different, so that this new compilation is not at all a new edition or revision of the earlier and well-known "Mulliken," but is an original contribution.

It differs from "A Manual for the Systematic Identification of Organic Compounds," by the same authors, which has appeared in mimeographed or