tables in which, generally, one best value for a given nuclear property has been critically selected. In *Nuclear Data,* similar information from different sources is presented, leaving it up to the reader to make a critical choice by a study of the original papers. This is certainly useful and stimulating for specialists in the field of nuclear physics, but may cause some difficulties for the reader who is not familiar with nuclear methods. The new compilation is not only more complete than any previously published table, but it is also more comprehensive, containing many additional data such as conversion coefficients, thresholds, and information about measurements of the shape of β-spectra, and of angular correlation.

Nuclear Data should prove exceedingly useful for any worker using radioactive isotopes. The physicist or chemist engaged in nuclear research is certain to be grateful that the tedious but necessary work of compiling nuclear data and keeping it up to date is being carried on by the National Bureau of Standards Nuclear Data group and that it is to be continued.

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Reviewed in Brief

Methods in Food Analysis Applied to Plant Products. Maynard A. Joslyn. New York: Academic Press, 1950. 525 pp. $8.50.

This book is intended as a text and reference work on the physical and chemical methods used in laboratory examination and evaluation of commercial fruit and vegetable products. It is based on the lecture notes and laboratory directions developed by the author in the presentation of a course in food analysis over a period of 20 years. As it is at an advanced level, previous training in analytic and organic chemistry is assumed. The methods presented are those in common use. Each chapter has an extensive list of references that will be a great aid to students. The text may be highly recommended.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: A Manual of Management. Ferris Smith. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1950. 895 pp. $15.00.

"The purpose of this manual is directive. It is not to teach the beginner in this special field, except through a preceptor who has basic training, experience and competent judgment." The author has drawn on his wealth of experience to present, with numerous preoperative and postoperative photographs, the trends in plastic surgery since World War I. As one scans the captions of the 14 chapters there is an impression of unbalance; however, it is clearly stated in the preface that hypospadias and epispadias should be corrected by the urologic surgeon, absence of the vaginal tract by the gynecologist, and lesions of the tendons, nerves, and bones by the orthopedist.

The book is authoritatively written and well printed. The author has unquestionably achieved his goal. This volume should be in the hands of everyone interested in this highly specialized field of surgery.

Progress in Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry, Vol. I. J. A. V. Butler and J. T. Randall, Eds. New York: Academic Press; London: Butterworth-Springer, 1950. 279 pp. $6.80.

In the face of an ever-mounting mass of reviews in the many fields of biological science, the editors of this volume are to be congratulated on having obtained, in general, critical reviews rather than mere bibliographic compilations while at the same time limiting their book to a modest 279 pages. The subtitle, "Biophysical Chemistry," is most appropriate to the subject matter since about half the chapters deal with the physical chemistry of large molecules.

The chapter headings are as follows: "Properties of Solutions of Large Molecules," H. Gutfreund; "Fundamental Structures in Biological Systems," K. M. Rudall; "Scattering of Visible Light and X-Rays by Solutions of Proteins," G. Oster; "Bioelectric Potentials, Their Maintenance and Function," E. E. Crane; "Phase Contrast Microscopy," A. F. W. Hughes; "Local Refractometry," J. St. L. Philpot; "Soft X-Rays in the Assay of Biological Materials," A. Engström; "Tolerance of Man for Radioactive Isotopes," J. F. Loutit; and "Mechanical Properties of Fibers and Muscles," M. G. M. Pryor.

Colloidal Dispersions. Earl K. Fischer. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1950. 387 pp. $7.50.

A subject of great industrial importance, this monograph was planned as a guide to the theory and practice of the dispersion of solids in liquid media. For orientation, the latest methods for the determination of particle size are presented, followed by theories on the wetting of solids and the state of the dispersed solid. The second part of the book covers the manufacture of colloidal dispersions, including details on processes and machinery. In this section one is impressed by the preponderance of citations to U. S. patents. The data brought together in the volume will be welcomed by all interested in colloidals.

Proctology in General Practice. J. Peerman Nesselrod. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1950. 276 pp. $6.00.

This study was prepared for the general practitioner who is becoming more and more intimately involved in the early diagnosis of rectal and colonic malignancy. In addition it has equal value for the medical student, the proctologist and the general surgeon. Chapter 1 is devoted to anorectal anatomy, physiology, and pathology as basic preparation for an understanding of the chapters that follow. Diagnostic procedures, preoperative management, and postoperative care are presented in a lucid, concise manner accompanied by well-selected illustrations. The book can be highly recommended.