The alert student may be mystified by the statement (on page 24) that methane decomposes to carbon and hydrogen above 1200°, shortly followed (on pages 37 and 38) by the one that acetylene and hydrogen can be formed from methane in reasonably high yield at 1400 to 1600°, if the exposure time is short enough. This is an oversimplification that overlooks the important factors of surface effects and concentrations on the complex sequence of reactions which determine the outcome of this pyrolysis.

The author's choice of compounds for discussion includes many substances found in commerce and a large group of physiologically active substances. This selection insures the interest of nurses, predental students, majors in home economics, majors in agriculture, and similar groups, to whom the text is especially addressed.

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Miscellaneous Publications

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3 AUGUST 1962

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