1958 (PL 85-507); President Eisenhower acknowledged that the Rockefellow Public Service Awards Program was a major factor in bringing about this legislation.

The continuing need for private sponsorship of special public recognition of the career Federal worker is being met by the new Rockefeller Public Service Awards Program, begun in 1960. The new program, like its predecessor, is designed "to enhance the prestige and improve the morale of those who devote their lives to public service." Normally, a new award is made every year, in each of five different fields of activity, to a person who has already achieved high distinction in the federal service.

The present volume is an account of the lives and careers of eight of these distinguished "new program" Rockefeller Public Service Award winners. The careerists and their biographers are: Hugh L. Dryden (Howard Simons), Llewellyn E. Thompson (Wallace Carroll), Sterling B. Hendricks (Gove Hambidge), Colin F. Stam (E. W. Kenworthy), Thomas B. Nolan (George R. Stewart), Robert H. Felix (Herbert C. Yahraes, Jr.), Robert M. Ball (Oscar Schisgall), and Richard E. McArdle (Milton MacKaye). In addition to the foreword by Princeton's President Robert Goheen, the book also contains portraits of the eight awardees, brief biographical sketches of the authors and editors, a short general introduction to the requirements, opportunities, and rewards of federal service (intended for the young reader), a list of winners under the original program, and a complete list of awards winners under the new program.

The stories of these men of accomplishment are lively and fascinating reading. The authors have done a uniformly excellent job in making one aware of the profound influence that these people have on our everyday lives. There is, of course, high drama in the account of Llewellyn Thompson's negotiations with the Russians over the Trieste problem and of his relations with Khrushchev during the U-2 incident. This is the stuff of which headlines are made. There is quiet but compelling drama in the story of the never-ending battle waged by Chief Forester McArdle against the enemies of our forest lands—both the natural enemies and those of the human variety. With each account one realizes how much the destiny of America can be shaped by the decisions of public officials in high places, and therefore how lucky he is to have men like these around. These men richly deserved their awards and the other honors they have received.

The interplay between the men and their institutions is revealing. The story of the man necessarily requires the telling of the story of his institution, and this is done with skill. Some of the men and their institutions grew up together; with others this was not so, but strong mutual influence always existed.

What could have been a stuffy book, is not. The quite varying personalities of these eight men come through with clarity. We see something of their nonprofessional lives, and we see how they react under the pressures and frustrations of public office. All in all, this is a well-researched, well-planned, and engrossing treatment. It is heartily recommended to readers of all kinds.

C. L. CHRIST
U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

Organic Chemistry Textbook

Basic Principles of Organic Chemistry. John D. Roberts and Marjorie C. Caserio. Benjamin, New York, 1964. xxvi + 1315 pp. Illus. $13.90.

This volume is big in scope, big in treatment, and just big. With the addition of a couple more pages, it would have weighed exactly 2 kilograms.

In the preface the authors mention that the book was originally conceived as a revision of Lucas' remarkable textbook, remarkable in that, three decades ago, it introduced thermochemistry and bond energies at the elementary level. Although this volume is far more than a revised Lucas, it does generally retain his order of presentation of functions (aliphatics, then aromatics, then heterocyclics and special topics). It has greatly expanded the physical scope. In the authors' words—"This book is not only designed as an introductory text for the student of organic chemistry; it aims also to reach the chemistry major, graduate student, and research man alike. . . ."

In developing the chemistry of a homologous series, a teacher or student should consider coverage of the following topics: structure and nomenclature, physical properties, sources and methods of preparation, reactions, uses, laboratory aspects, and theoretical aspects. Nomenclature is treated expertly here. It is refreshing to note the care that has been devoted to it, and despite a few slips good usage generally prevails, even in paragraphs not directly concerned with naming. Names that should be unspaced are unspaced, and two-word names are given as two words. Isocyanides are not called "isonitriles." Esters of toluenesulfonic acid are called toluenesulfonates, not tosylates. "Bromo acid" is not abused as "bromoacid," and "keto ester" is not maltreated as "ketoester."

The treatment of physical properties is outstandingly well done, especially with regard to spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance, which are developed in detailed fashion with clear presentations for interpretation of spectra. In general, solubilities in water are ignored, although a few are listed. Odors are omitted, even those of esters or isocyanides. Bond lengths are shown for many compounds, and ΔH values are given for many reactions. Theoretical aspects dealing with reaction mechanisms, resonance, conformations, molecular orbitals, and excited states in photochemistry are all handled in a way that is illuminating to the reader.

Expansion of a text at one or more places usually necessitates shrinkage at others, even in a book this size. The shrinkage here seems to have occurred at syntheses, reactions, and uses. Much is included, naturally, but the "laboratory feel" for organic chemistry is somewhat slighted. Two examples will illustrate. Under acetic acid, for example, one never encounters its commercial synthesis or the term glacial acetic acid. Again, the authors mention changing an alkylacetylene $RC{\equiv}CH$ into its anion, $RC{\equiv}C^-$, by KNH_2, but they fail to record reaction of $RC{\equiv}C^-$ and an alkyl halide ($R'X$) to yield $RC{\equiv}CR'$, or the synthesis of $RC{\equiv}CH$ from acetylene itself with KNH_2 and RX. Omissions of this type are not necessarily bad. They give the teacher something to do.

In summary, this is an important textbook. It is certain to have a profound impact on the teaching of organic chemistry for years to come.

CHARLES D. HURD
Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois