

tochemistry has a vast literature, and because a theory that is in vogue or a reaction that is of interest at a given moment may not be so a few years later. Barltrop and Coyle have handled the problem well. They have emphasized current literature over older literature perhaps a little more than the reviewer might have wished, but the treatment is current while still giving historical perspective for the most part.

The number of errors is small, but it seems to be the duty of a reviewer to find errors or weak points, and this reviewer will do so. Among the things one might mention is the use of "stereospecific" on p. 204 where "stereoselective" is meant. On p. 167 there is a mix-up of references so that Longuet-Higgins is credited in the wrong place for the wrong contribution. The discussion of meta electron transmission on pp. 287-290 quotes the reviewer's theoretical contributions with reference to work that was in fact done later. The same occurs in connection with discussion of $n-\pi^*$ photochemistry. The reviewer would be less than human if he did not comment on his name's being misspelled throughout chapter 6. Finally, although Möbius benzene is discussed, there is no general discussion of the difference between Möbius and Hückel systems. An author index would have been helpful, since so many photochemists look things up by reference to their memory of who did the work. As can be seen, though, these deficiencies will not necessarily detract from the general usefulness of the text.

Having aired some minor complaints, the reviewer can turn to some strong points. First, there is a very broad coverage of different types of photochemical reactions, and the examples are quite representative. Second, the interpretations given are lucid and concise and approximate closely those of the authors of the original literature. Third, there is good balance between theory and fact. Finally, there is sufficient material to provide good background for someone new to photochemistry and also to intrigue the specialist.

In conclusion, this book will be of use to active researchers in photochemistry and to those graduate students who can specify an expensive gift at Christmas-time.

The only really negative comment about the book concerns the price. An author often does well to make a low price a condition for giving his manuscript to a given publisher.

HOWARD E. ZIMMERMAN
Department of Chemistry,
University of Wisconsin, Madison

20 AUGUST 1976

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