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well-developed sex chromosomes were "subsequently lost."

The book serves as a comprehensive guide to the chromosome literature bearing on genetical matters. Entire chapters are devoted to such fundamental subjects as structure of mitotic chromosomes, salivary-gland chromosomes, structural rearrangements and meiosis; others bear on special problems connected with parthenogenesis, male haploidy, and hybrid sterility. The always interesting subject matter is presented in stimulating and easily readable form. In a second printing, some minor errors and inconsistencies should be eliminated.

EMIL WITSCHI

State University of Iowa

**Modern plastics.** Harry Barron. New York: Wiley, London: Chapman and Hall, 1945. Pp. xv + 680. (Illustrated.) \$7.50.

This book, as the author notes in his Preface, has been written for the reader with a modest scientific or engineering background who wishes to obtain an over-all view of the plastic industry. In line with this thought, the book covers all the well-known basic plastics, emphasizing their requisite raw materials, manufacture, processing, and applications. The nine chapters on phenolic plastics cover the phenol formaldehydes, the urea formaldehydes, and the melamine formaldehydes. Special emphasis is placed on the methods of polymerizing and details of molding, casting, and laminating. The five chapters on cellulose plastics are concerned with cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, and ethyl cellulose. Of particular interest is the description of the injection molding process. The vinyl resins are well covered, with much attention being given to applications. Brief but excellent chapters on plasticizers and the extrusion process are included. Polyamide plastics, alkyd plastics, and casein plastics are each discussed. High-frequency heating methods, analytical tests, and physical tests are briefly considered.

While the book has not been written for the specialist in plastics polymerization, there are several very good descriptions of the polymerization process both for thermoplastic and thermosetting materials. The author succeeds very well in presenting an over-all picture of plastics chemistry and plastics technology. Although the author is an Englishman, most of the references are to American concerns and literature. However, enough of Germany's and England's contributions are present to give the book a cosmopolitan flavor.

The author makes no pretense of including any up-to-the-minute developments, and such topics as allyl plastics and silica plastics are absent. The newer developments in alkyds and low-pressure laminating are not treated adequately in the light of present knowledge. For American readers, the author's dependence on British testing procedures is unfortunate.

All in all, however, the book can be well recommended as covering the entire field in an adequate manner.

MAURICE E. MARKS

Research Laboratory, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company

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