

CHEMISTRY IN BRITAIN

BOOK REVIEW

D.F. Williams and W.H. Schmitt: *Chemistry and technology of the cosmetics and toiletries industry*. 2nd. edition. Blackie academic and professional. 1996. ISBN No. 0-7514-0334-2. [395 pages].

The thing I like best about this book is that all of the authors are well known in the industry and are still at the cutting face of cosmetic and toiletry technology. It is absolutely up-to-date with descriptions and information on the latest raw materials used at the present time.

The book provides good coverage on the physiology of the hair, skin and teeth, before it expands each section into the formulation of the products that care for these areas. To further help the reader, the volume is illustrated with numerous formulae, all of which are well crafted and would certainly give the cosmetic chemist a better than head start on new development. The book is embellished with useful diagrams, chemical structures and graphs.

Every possible product for skin care, sun protection, toiletries and colour cosmetics are discussed in thorough detail and towards the end of the book there are useful sections on quality control, environmental issues and legislation (covering European and American regulations).

The major omissions are on the subjects of microbiology and product preservation, which are only covered in passing (it would have been useful to learn more on the subject of challenge testing and spoilage organisms). The other area that is not covered in great detail is that of botanical extracts and

natural derivatives, except for a brief section on natural waxes and the mention of a few emollient oils.

In conclusion, it is a well written and thoughtfully produced book which certainly covers all the information needed to understand and keep abreast of this scientific area. There are only a few existing volumes that cover this industry at a professional scientific level, and the authors are to be congratulated, because this book most certainly rates as one of the best in its field, is definitely worth purchasing, and will be of immense value to both student and mature scientist alike.

Reviewed by Anthony C. Dweck