

regard to the last one or two layers of atoms. Polymers differ from low-molecular-weight materials in this relatively deep sub-surface involvement in surface behavior.

I note very few topics that are particularly slighted. One, however, is the wetting of polymer surfaces by liquids. The topic of contact angles is mentioned only in passing, in the chapters by B. J. Briscoe and by H. Schonhorn. Both of these authors are concerned primarily with practical adhesion and friction, and so do not treat contact angles *per se*.

I feel that an interesting and valuable discussion could have been given by somebody on the topography of polymer surfaces as revealed by scarring electron microscopy. (A few SEM photographs are included in the last two chapters, on photodegradation and tribology.) Also, the porosity of polymers is a topic where modern physical methods prove useful. The interior surface of a pore, after all, is continuous with the external surface of the polymer.

Most of the material in this book is of the nature of review. The Hoffman and Davis paper provides a novel synthesis of the papers that are reviewed. A short paper by G. A. Gamlen, on "epitropic fibres," that is, fibres whose surface is chemically modified to a depth of 0.5 to 2 microns by a particle-embedding process recently developed at ICI, presents the outcome of some recent research and developmental work there.

There is no comparable book available in the field, and this volume should be widely useful to polymer physicists, physical chemists, surface chemists and experimentalists in general.

ROBERT J. GOOD

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