

REPORT 1967

MACTLAC Cooperative Physical Chemistry Laboratory Project

To all MACTLAC members and associates, but with especial reference to those members whose departments are contributing members of this project.

Shortly after the MACTLAC meeting last fall the manuscripts of Theory and Experiment sections of the Physical Chemistry Laboratory Manual went to our publishers, D. Van Nostrand Co. for review. At that time there were fifteen chapters of theory running to 674 pages, plus 105 pages of appendix together with 29 experiments under 9 major headings.

The manuscript received two detailed reviews plus an analysis by the science editor of Van Nostrand, Mr. Malcolm Mac Donald. The reviews were very favorable, but of course there were many suggestions for improving clarity and coverage which were followed this summer during revision.

Some quotes from the reviewers are:

"I am very impressed with it. There is great need for this type of book today, with nothing available on the market". "The main portion is a discussion of chemical technique in general and could be just as useful for Analytical Chemistry, Instrumental Analysis or even for first year chemistry.----- It would be ideal for the integrated six or seven semester laboratory courses (e.g. Louisiana State Univ. in New Orleans." "I only regret that knowing such a book exists, I will have to wait until it is published before I can incorporate it into my chemistry curriculum". "In some ways this represents a return to something physical chemistry seems to be losing these days, namely experiments in which the student can understand the measurements which he is performing well enough so that he sees the relevance of the laboratory to the rest of the course".

For practical reasons, the decision has been made to publish Theory and Experiments in one volume. Largely due to economic pressure, the revised manuscript has been condensed to about 425 pages, and the appendix on shop work has been eliminated. Four more experiments are to be added this month giving a total of 33 amounting to 200 manuscript pages.

Revision is now complete and the manuscript has been accepted by the publisher. Detailed editing will start this month with the expectation of publication in late fall of 1968.

Meanwhile several new people have been invited to serve with the three remaining original members of the Editorial Board. The four new experiments, mentioned above will be distributed this fall. At least one other experiment is in the offing. It is expected that the development and distribution of new Physical Chemistry Laboratory Experiments will be continued.

Let me again express the very deep appreciation of the Editor and members of the Editorial Board for your help and cooperation which have advanced this successful project to its present level.


W. C. Oelke, Editor