



Deans McKetta and Amstead, in a quiet moment, discuss plans, make decisions, and ponder new problems.

Chemical engineers, those who probably have known John McKetta longest and best, should have no fears that he has deserted or grown away from them. Addressing a South Texas Section, AIChE meeting late in 1967, his opening remarks were:

"I have taken pride in being a member of

AIChE for many years. It is a special honor to be allowed to speak to you today.

"You know, as a dean of engineering responsible for educating thousands of young men and women to take their places in the profession, my interests must be as diverse as all the broad fields of engineering. But it is always refreshing to come back home and rub elbows with men in chemical engineering, my first love and the field with which I have a permanent romance. . ."

John McKetta's multiplicity of activities defines the man, but it still leaves him hard to categorize. Above all, he is an individualist and his own man.

He fits no traditional mold. He is a new mold, a new kind of leader, intent on producing a new breed of young engineers with a deep sense of social relevancy, strengthening the initiatives of both education and industry, and developing the knowledge and talents of the finest young persons ever to seek an education.

These are not impossible goals for a man like John McKetta.

ChE book reviews

Conservation of Mass Energy

J. C. Whitwell and R. K. Toner

Blaisdell Publishing Co., (1969), 496 pp.

Waltham, Mass.

The authors have produced a challenging book for students taking their first course in chemical engineering. The introductory chapter describing the function of the chemical engineer in industrial practice is well done and could serve as a model for informing high school students about the field of chemical engineering.

Their approach to the problem of unit conversion is not the traditional unit equation and conversion factor method but is heuristic. The intent being to get the student to think.

The section on independent balances and variables in the material balance chapter is considerably more advanced than usually found in texts at this level, making use of Amundsen's matrix method for determining the number of components in a system. A supplement to the chapter on material balances treats in detail the degrees of freedom available in process specification.

The chapter on transients covering both time

and position dependent processes may be too advanced for the average student at this level. It may be appropriate to skip the position dependent transient, delaying this material until it occurs in the treatment of stagewise and continuous contactors in subsequent courses. A later section deals with transients associated with heat transfer operations.

The section of the book dealing with energy balances is less satisfactory than the preceding sections. Many topics are brought up and then dropped as being beyond the scope of the text. The explanation of the kinetic energy term in the overall energy balance is not very satisfactory.

Phase diagrams and enthalpy concentration diagrams are not mentioned. This seems unfortunate in view of their usefulness in tying together material and energy balances.

The text is adequately supplied with worked out example problems. There are a large number of problems for student use following each chapter. These are graded in difficulty and in addition a group of problems in each chapter has extraneous data supplied. Hopefully these problems will encourage the student to think before starting the problem solution.

Edgar V. Collins, Jr.
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