

Preface

THE AUTHOR of this manual has attempted to define elsewhere (J. Chem. Educ., 8:107, 568) a method for a first year course in practical organic chemistry. This manual is written primarily for students being taught under that definition: it is hoped, nevertheless, that it will be acceptable to others. We have attempted to give a minimum of specific detail with a maximum of inducement to original experimentation, believing that in the second semester the student is capable of working directly from the literature on some project of his own. We have attempted to emphasize the logical relationship between the properties of the materials involved in a reaction and the manipulations undertaken for the isolation and purification of the desired product. No attempt has been made to illustrate the theory of organic chemistry or any group properties of carbon compounds. It is hoped that the style and content of this manual will be helpful in conveying to the student some mastery of the broad principles of laboratory technique, but even more ardently it is hoped that it will be helpful in interesting the student in a possible application of these principles on some project which will bear comparison truly, even though modestly, to the work of a practising organic chemist.

It is expected that an edition of this manual, enlarged and arranged for general distribution and improved by further collaboration with Professor John M. Nelson, Columbia University, will be ready under joint authorship in the course of a few years.

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