

PREFACE

In this second volume, the scope of rheological fields dealt with becomes more specific and the volume contains in large measure chapters on deformational behavior in relation to the classic subjects and topics of rheology. There is considerable carry-over of material on the theory of viscoelastic and relaxation phenomena, of aspects which were not treated in the first volume, followed by applied theory and by descriptive matter concerning substances related to these phenomena. As an example of the ever-increasing ramifications of rheology, it may surprise some readers to see that geological deformations follow general principles derived from the study of less "immobile" objects. The volume is rounded out by three chapters dealing with methods and instrumentation.

The present volume benefited inevitably from the experience gained during the preparation of the first. It was not possible, however, to follow some suggestions which appeared in the generous reviews of Volume I with regard to overlap or repetitions, unequal approach or even conflicting views, and nonuniformity of nomenclature.

In the opinion of the editor, the first two of the mentioned criticisms do not do justice to the intent of this book. It is inherent in the nature of cooperative efforts that, lacking the homogeneity of one-author books, they offer, in contrast to these, the advantage of permitting the presentation of different points of view on kindred, or even the same, subjects. This may be perplexing at times, but it allows the serious student to obtain balanced information rather than be given a unified personal view.

It has further been our object to provide the reader with specific information of a rather self-contained nature without making it necessary for him to be referred continually to a number of other chapters or volumes. Obviously, there must be a compromise between this endeavor and conciseness. It has been the policy in arranging this book to err, if need be, in the direction of making the chapters more independent units rather than keeping them strictly interdependent, with the thought that it is easier to skip paragraphs than to search for them. It has been our aim to achieve this without sacrificing the unity of the book as a whole or making it unwieldy.

Concerning nomenclature, the editor has admitted defeat in the Preface to the first volume and he has not been any more successful in the present one. Today, diversity of usage is too great and the bases for uniform schemes are yet too controversial to force the issue at this juncture. It is hoped that,

by the time the third volume is ready to go to press, efforts to unify nomenclature may have reached a point where they can be applied to this book.
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