

Silent Spring Comment

DEAR SIR:

In my opinion the choice of words "Silence, Miss Carson" in your review of "Silent Spring" (C&EN, Oct. 1, page 60) was most unfortunate.

Unfortunately, the history of mankind shows that in order to obtain a mass popular-type audience, the crusading type of journalism used in this book is necessary.

That the book contains some exaggerations and errors of fact is beside the point. I have read many scientific articles that contained misleading, confusing, or erroneous statements. In fact, almost everyone who has written several papers is guilty in some respect.

No informed person who is honest can claim that our environment is not being changed in many harmful ways. The statement that no new factual material appears in the book, that the "experts" are well aware of all these things and are attempting to take corrective measures—all these do not argue against the book.

To say, as the reviewer does half-way through the review, that the review should logically end here, and then admit several paragraphs later, near the end, that the book could have some educational value, is inexcusable. Murray Hill, N.J. JOSEPH HOFFMAN

DEAR SIR:

"Silence, Miss Carson."

The above title would have been quite proper if used to head a personal rebuttal of a highly controversial book.

It seems rather unfortunate, however, that the section usually reserved for objective and factual book analyses has in this case deceived its purpose. Without wanting to delve further into the merits of the book in question, I think that the reader turning to a book review column does so in order to obtain an unbiased idea of the book's values and/or shortcomings.

The article by Dr. William J. Darby should have received recognition in a more appropriate section of this journal. In my opinion, it can hardly be classified as a book review.

State College, Pa. DR. A. PROVINTI

ED. NOTE: The heading was written by C&EN, not Dr. Darby.

DEAR SIR:

Dr. Darby's review of Miss Carson's "Silent Spring" voices what most, if not all, scientists connected with the many facets of agricultural and food chemistry feel.

It is unfortunate, however, that Dr. Darby's justified dissection of Miss Carson's book will only reach a few, who would not take Miss Carson seriously anyway. What we need to combat illogical and seemingly more frequent outbursts by overemotional authors such as Miss Carson is a direct appeal to the purchasers and everyday users of chemicals in the gardens and in the home. The amateur gardener or average housewife is not likely to read CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS, Agricultural Research Service or Chemical Week, to mention three magazines which have been justifiably assaulting, to my delight, Miss Carson's new masterpiece.

I suggest that, somehow, the scientific viewpoint and the undistorted facts be presented to the public directly. Life, Post, New York Times, and other widely-circulated publications should be approached to print the substance of Dr. Darby's review, even if a one-page advertisement has to be purchased to do it. Again let me emphasize that wider publicity of the scientific viewpoint is required and cannot be accomplished through the limited circulation of technical magazines and friendly persuasion by neighborhood scientists.

BASIL S. FARAH

Rockaway, N.J.

Wrong Credit

DEAR SIR:

I am embarrassed by being given credit (C&EN, Sept. 17, page 78) for work which I did not do. The work on programed instruction described on that page should be credited to Dr. Jesse H. Day.

In each of three paragraphs my name occurs in connection with work done by him.

What happened was that I read Dr. Day's prepared paper before the Division of Chemical Education because of an emergency situation which prevented his appearance.

LAWRENCE P. EBLIN

Athens, Ohio

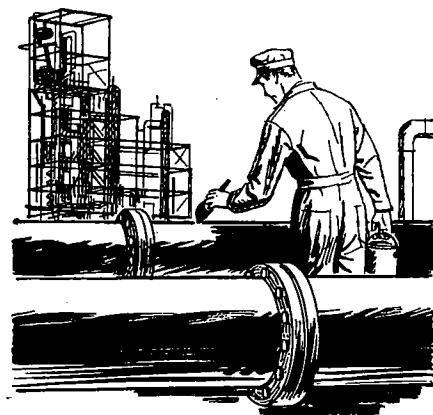
INTRACTABLE RESINS



MONSANTO PLASTICIZERS

WORKABLE NEW FORMULATIONS

This simple formula works on even your toughest plasticizing problems. It figures. Who else but Monsanto can throw more than 80 plasticizers at a recalcitrant resin?



TAKE CHLORINATED RUBBER

Aroclor® plasticizers augment resistance to acids, alkalis, moisture, and corrosive chemicals and impart fire retardance to chlorinated rubbers, polysulfides, and styrene-butadiene copolymers. They impart flexibility, strengthen adhesion and extend the life of coatings. Tricresyl phosphate, dibutyl phthalate, HB-40®, and Santicizer B-16® are also useful for flexibility and adhesion.



To formulate your plasticizing problems away, contact Monsanto first.

Technical Bulletin PL-332, Plasticizers for Hard-to-Plasticize Resins, reviews applications of Monsanto plasticizers in 21 difficult resins. Return the coupon today to get your copy. Monsanto Chemical Company, Organic Chemicals Division, Dept. 245, St. Louis 66, Missouri.

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____