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Charles S. Gibson

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ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

by

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PREFACE

It is hoped that this book will facilitate the study of Organic Chemistry for those who will eventually specialize in the subject and those who will later engage in the study of those sciences for which a knowledge of the principles of organic chemistry is essential. The importance of a sound knowledge of organic chemistry for the study of biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology and therapeutics needs no emphasis, and the study of organic chemistry with reference to the future work of the students of these subjects is a feature of the method of presentation by the author.

It is assumed that the reader has some familiarity with the elementary principles of general chemistry and physics and, to avoid elaboration of detail, no attempt has been made to attain the comprehensiveness of a 'text-book'. Beilstein's *Handbuch der organischen Chemie* (of which the present incomplete edition has already reached its thirty-eighth volume)—the standard text-book on the subject—has necessarily been frequently consulted and the *Dictionary of Organic Compounds*, edited by Professor I. M. Heilbron, D.S.O., F.R.S., has proved most valuable as a book of reference. For the mode of presentation of certain parts of the subject, the author has made use of some methods adopted by other teachers, particularly Professor G. Barger, F.R.S., author of *Organic Chemistry for Medical Students*.

The study of Organic Chemistry can only be made efficient in so far as it is carried out along with a comprehensive course of work in the laboratory; and the practical side of the subject is specially emphasized. Types of apparatus commonly used in the preparation and investigation of organic compounds are described in the 'Appendix'.

The study of the subject beyond the scope of the present work may best be continued by means of the treatises now available on specialized portions of organic chemistry as well as by reference to original papers in the recognized journals of which the *Journal of the Chemical Society* may be regarded as typical. Some of the treatises are mentioned in the text and others are given in the References.

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PREFACE

The author is very greatly indebted to Dr F. H. Brain, M.A., for his valuable assistance in making some of the drawings, in the reading of the proofs, in making the 'Index' and for his many useful suggestions. He also expresses his thanks to Mr S. Holt, M.Sc., for his assistance in making the 'Index' and to Mr James Nield for his personal help without which this book would not have appeared.

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September 1936

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