MECHANISMS OF HYDROCARBON REACTIONS

A SYMPOSIUM

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Edited by PROF. F. MÁRTA and DR. D. KALLÓ

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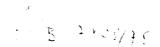
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It is a great honour and a great pleasure to me to greet you on behalf of the organizing bodies of our Symposium, namely the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Isotopes and the Society of Hungarian Chemists. I am very pleased that you have accepted the invitation to attend our scientific meeting in such a great number.

The investigation of the chemistry and transformation of hydrocarbons has an increasing importance in chemical research. The development and improvement of the experimental methods give more and more possibilities for a thorough study of hydrocarbons which do not possess characteristic functional group in their molecules, enabling us to increase our knowledge about their behaviour under different experimental conditions.

The chemical transformations of hydrocarbons play an important role in chemical industries, too. They are important not only as energy resources but as starting materials for chemical industries all over the world. This latter role is increasing also due to the appearance of new energy sources giving, thus, more possibilities to use hydrocarbons for other chemical purposes. Consequently, more attention will be focused by different research institutions and groups on the chemical transformation of hydrocarbons.

This was our impression at the Fifth Congress of Catalysis in Palm Beach last year, when about 40% of the lectures dealt with catalytic transformation of different hydrocarbons. Advanced research works which are in progress for example at the Universities of Moscow, Princeton, Stanford and Berkeley, in the Zelinskii Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Soviet Academy of Sciences as well as in the Institute of Catalytic Research in Lyon all show that catalytic research and hydrocarbon chemistry have merged to a great extent.

In addition, present radiation sources of very high intensity and improved analytical methods are available and this is the reason why radiation research also turns more and more towards the study of hydrocarbon reactions.

In Hungary wide-spread work has started on utilizing the chemical transformation of hydrocarbons in the petroleum industry. This has created a demand to widen the research in the field of hydrocarbon chemistry. I feel that this is one of the main reasons to have organized this scientific symposium here and now. It seems to me that it would be very interesting and fruitful if scientists who are dealing with the different ways of the initiation of hydrocarbon reactions, such as by heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysts, by irradiation and thermal energy come together to discuss these problems, bearing in mind that the main aim is to obtain as much information as possible on the mechanisms of the hydrocarbon reactions. The synthesis of the different ways of initiation may give a deeper insight into the explanation of any given reaction mechanism.

More than fifty contributed papers and four plenary lectures will be delivered during the Symposium and the members of the Symposium have come from twelve countries. It is my pleasent duty to thank all those concerned for their valuable contributions.

A few weeks ago we received the sad message from Russia that Professor Kazanskii, member of the Soviet and many other Academies of Sciences, one of the initiators of catalytic hydrocarbon chemistry had died on 5th April at the age of 82. We wish to convey our deepest regrets and sympathy to his co-workers and all our Soviet colleagues. May I suggest that we honour his memory with a 1 minute silence.

His colleagues completed the plenary lecture drafted by Professor Kazanskii himself. It will be delivered by one of his closest co-workers. Professor Rozengart.

I would like to express my gratitude to the bodies organizing the Symposium as well as the Ministry of Heavy Industry for their financial support.

And now, I would like to ask Professor Schay, honorary chairman of our symposium, the Great Old Man of Hungarian physical chemistry to say some words of welcome to the participants.

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