CHEMISTRY & INDUSTRY

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NEWS

CFC phase-out agreed... Britain's water companies to comply with EC standards...ICI and Hoechst still buoyant... British government happy with waste controls... Wellcome first half... German chemicals maintain strength... High-risk zones...

NEWS REPORTS

Rhône-Poulenc

Rhône-Poulenc is determined to climb the chemicals league table, says Jean-René Fortou. Currently in ninth position, the company has some catching-up to do, but Fortou is sure that in five years' time, further acquisitions, and increased capital and R&D spending, will have lifted it closer to fifth place. Nigel Davis reports.



Albright & Wilson research expansion

Having cut its R&D to the bone in the 1970s, Albright &Wilson is now building up its chemicals research. Its new research centre in the UK will hire some 70 scientists and technicians over the next couple of years. Andrew Miller reports on the company's rediscovery that R&D is important for commercial success.



US science adviser appointed

Like Rip van Winkle, science policy in the White House may be awakening after a long nap in the Reagan years. Allan Bromley, a nuclear physicist at Yale, and President Bush's new science adviser, has been given 'cabinet rank'. Jeffrey Fox assesses his prospects. 294

ICI Paints

As one of ICI's fastest growing businesses, ICI Paints has become the world leader in the coatings market. Ferry Biedermann takes a snapshot look at the division's performance.

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MOLECULAR RECOGNITION

Knowledge by Design

Michael Blackburn and his colleagues at the Krebs Institute in Sheffield explain the principles behind a process which has wide ranging implications for both science and society.

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PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

From Education to Production

Brian Spark, a technical adviser in R&D at Rhône-Poulenc Ltd, asks whether the teaching of chemistry in schools and colleges in the UK is meeting the needs of the chemical industry.

Politics and Personalities in R&D

From his own personal experiences gained during a long career in the chemical industry, Ralph King considers the crucial part politics can often play in R&D.

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COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EDITOR

A convenient procedure for the preparation of aldehydes by the oxidation of primary alcohols in ether with aqueous chromic acid.

Ji-Dong Lou

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HIGHLIGHTS

Syntheses of natural products containing eight membered rings... molecules for 'molecular memory' devices... enolate anion chemistry... a new route to the anti-obesity agent (-)-tetrahydrolipstatin... new ethene polymerisation catalysts... hydroformylations of alkynes.



Cover photograph: Structure of Zidovidine (AZT) basepairing with adenine by hydrogen-bonding (a a B-DNA helix, courtery of the Krebs Institute.



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