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zation, and clarity of presentation are concerned, the answer is an unqualified "Yes". The extent to which the text is, in fact, "suitable for the students' first exposure to an engineering course" necessarily depends on how it is used, however.

The authors view their approach as "a replacement for the traditional course in material and energy balancing", but admit that some traditional topics must then be treated in subsequent courses. The synthesis-oriented approach, they report, produces students who can screen reaction sequences, "make a pretty good material balance", allocate materials, select separation phenomena, and use energy balances, all with due regard for process economics, as they synthesize complete process flow sheets.

Even so, the very uniqueness of the synthesis approach makes it difficult to use this text as the basis for a conventional beginning course in stoichiometry, etc. But the book should very definitely be of interest to the instructor who is willing to accept the synthesis-oriented philosophy along with or in place of the traditional first-course approach.

As an alternative to first-course use, it is recommended that the book be seriously considered

either as a text or as a key reference source for process design studies at the senior level. Decisions of the type treated by Rudd, et al, are a very real part of chemical engineering practice, and the student should be prepared to make them. *Process Synthesis* appears to be an excellent vehicle for such preparation. □

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