



A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World: RSC

By John Emsley

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This book explains to the general reader the roles of chemistry in various areas of life ranging from the entirely personal to the worryingly global. These roles are currently not widely appreciated and certainly not well understood. The book is aimed at educated laypeople who want to know more about the world around them but have little chemical knowledge. The themes relate to the importance of chemistry in everyday life, the benefits they currently bring, and how their use can continue on a sustainable basis. Topics include: Health - conquering the diseases and stresses which still threaten us. Food - the role of agrochemicals and food chemists. Water - drinking water; the seas as a resource of raw materials. Fuels - what are they and from what are they made? Plastics - what are they used for and can they be sustainable? Cities - what role has chemistry in modern life? Sport - chemistry has changed the game. The world stands at a crossroads. What route to the future should we take? The road to a sustainable city beckons, but what effect will this have on chemistry, which appears so dependent on fossil resources? Its products are part of everyday living, and without them we could regress to the world of earlier generations when lives were blighted by disease, famines, dirt, and pain. In fact the industries based on chemistry the chemical, agrochemical, and pharmaceutical industries could be sustainable and not only benefit those in the developed world but could be shared by everyone on this planet and for generations to come. This book shows how it might be achieved.

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Editorial Review

Review

Chemistry As The Good Guy

A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World

John Emsley

RSC Publishing, Cambridge, UK, 2010, 170 pp (HB) ISBN 978-1-84755-862-6

Reviewed by Keith Taber

This book reflects two major premises. One is that we face a major crisis because of the way humans have been using the world's resources in a way that is totally unsustainable. The second is that although this is a major problem, there is hope, and much of that hope centres on chemistry. This is an important message. Of course chemistry is neutral, and sometimes its applications have caused damage to people and places. Yet its successes often go unnoticed, and the prospects for future prosperity are dismal without it.

Emsley's book is divided into chapters according to major areas of application of chemical sciences: food, water, health, fuels, plastics, cities and sport. Within each of these contexts, a case is made for how chemistry can make a continuing major contribution to maintaining and developing standards of living for present and future generations. Emsley discusses what has already been achieved, what is under development, and what chemists can reasonably hope to aspire to. However, he points out how such aspirations depend upon a continuing flow of gifted young people into the chemical sciences.

A key theme in the book is that despite the bad press often given to 'chemicals', especially those judged not to be 'natural', chemists have already done a great deal to help people become healthier and safer, as well as having increasingly sophisticated 'kit' to house and clothe, and increasingly entertain, us.

The volume is packed with facts, and although the themes will be familiar to chemists, Emsley is relentless in supporting his argument with engaging and relevant examples: including some rather obscure and bizarre ones. It is a rare reader who will not learn something from this book. However, the writing style is designed to make the book accessible well beyond the already-converted. This book is highly recommended for chemists who will enjoy its breadth. However, it would make an even better present for those misguided enough to see chemistry as inherently a 'bad guy' in the environmental context; and perhaps even more importantly, for those still young enough to be making up their minds.

Chemistry World. 2010. 7(12), p.p. 53

From the Back Cover

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Then came *Molecules at an Exhibition*, *Vanity, Vitality & Virility*, and *Better Looking, Better Living, Better Loving*, all devoted to the benefits of chemistry. *A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World* will deal with the things we regard as essential to a developed lifestyle and which depend on chemistry, namely food, water, fuel, healing drugs and plastics, as well as other areas where its role is less obvious, such as city living and sport.

About the Author

John Emsley is a popular science writer whose first book, *The Consumer's Good Chemical Guide*, won the 1995 Science Book Prize and has been translated into 12 other languages. Then came *Molecules at an Exhibition*, *Vanity, Vitality & Virility*, and *Better Looking, Better Living, Better Loving*, *A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World* all devoted to the benefits of chemistry. *A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World* will deal with the things we regard as essential to a developed lifestyle and which depend on chemistry, namely food, water, fuel, healing drugs and plastics, as well as other areas where its role is less obvious, such as city living and sport.

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Eddie Patten:

The book *A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World: RSC* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was written by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can find the point easily after perusing this book.

Vicky Gamez:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you is A Healthy, Wealthy, Sustainable World: RSC this guide consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some study when he makes this book. This is why this book suited all of you.

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