

EDITOR'S PAGE

The author of the previous Editor's Page Prof. *emeritus* E. Reinsalu declares, and quite groundedly, that the best resources of kukersite are exhausted. However, Dr. K. Brendow from the World Energy Council writes in the same issue that the interest in oil shale is continuously growing all over the world. It is obviously caused by the possible exhaustion of world's oil resources already by the end of the first quarter of this century. I as a chemist-technologist myself dare to encourage the researchers who are looking for new possibilities for large-scale manufacturing of various products based on oil shale processing.

We have tried to publish in our journal the papers dealing with the problems of direct or indirect use of organic matter of various oil shales. The journal has carried the results obtained in the field of creating and developing new technologies for oil shale processing, etc.

Different branches of science develop at different speed, some problems insurmountable some years ago may, thanks to close co-operation between different sciences, turn out to be solvable now. I keep in mind the latest achievements in chemical technology, and specially in the field of separation methods. Ten years ago separation of individual compounds from a complex mixture like shale oil was economically ungrounded, whereas today the problem can be successfully solved. Synthesis is expensive, even the so-called one-pot one, successfully practiced by Member of Academy I. Ugi. Modern analytical chemistry allows detecting even single molecules present in a complex mixture. If the method used so far consists of separation of a mixture into narrow fractions followed by their analysis, then why not act in the opposite way now – to use universal and quantitative methods of detection for producing high-pure individual compounds.

I wish success and willpower to work in the large and fruitful field of oil shale research.

Jüri KANN