

Book reviews

Organic Chemistry (4th edition)
R J Fessenden and J S Fessenden
Brooks/Cole, California, 1990.
Pp 1137. £19.95. ISBN 0 534 98175 5

This book is already very well known to undergraduate students as an excellent introduction to the topic of organic chemistry. Now in its fourth edition, some new important additions have been made. Modern synthetic techniques have been introduced, some photochemical theory and reactions have been mentioned, nucleic acids now occupy a full chapter, and a lot more emphasis has been placed on spectroscopic techniques for structure elucidation. The number of worked-out sample problems within the chapters, as well as the large number of unsolved problems at the end of the chapters, makes this fourth edition even more attractive.

Organometallic reagents have been mentioned throughout the text in connection with specific syntheses. The best-known of these, the organomagnesium (Grignard) reagents, have been correctly placed in the chapter dealing with the preparation of alcohols. Organolithiums are also mentioned in connection with alcohol synthesis. There are also brief references to dialkylcuprates in the synthesis of ketones, organosilicons have featured as NMR standards, and mercuric acetate has been mentioned in connection with the hydration of alkenes.

As this is primarily a text book of organic chemistry, the right emphasis on organometallic reagents has been achieved.

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Inclusion Phenomena in Inorganic, Organic and Organometallic Hosts
December 1987
D Reidel, Dordrecht.
472 pp. Dfl 195, £59.50. ISBN 90 277 2601 9.

This work originates from a joint meeting at Lancaster University on Inclusion Phenomena and Cyclodextrins. As the fourth and third events respectively in each series, they have become well established. The working nature of the meetings was reflected by the publication of a daily report summarizing the high spots of the previous day's events. This report (The Daily Gleaner) is reproduced in this book. It certainly brings out the

vitality and timeliness of the meeting, but direct reproduction in the original form rather detracts from the presentation and appearance of this book, which consists of 50 extended abstracts and 21 original contributions; unfortunately individual authors and contribution titles cannot be listed in a review of this length. Typefaces and styles differ in the camera-ready text and therefore overall appearance and cohesiveness are not its best features.

The cyclodextrins are α -1-4-linked cyclic oligomers of D-glycopyranose which can form inclusion complexes with a range of substances, including drug molecules. Hence the logic of the joint meeting. Of particular interest to organometallic chemists, for example, are the sections by Clayden, Dobson, Heyes and Wiseman on metallocenes in host lattices; by Goldberg, Shinar and Navon on organometallic ionophore chemistry (with $(\eta\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Co}[\text{PO}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2]_3^-$) and by Beer and Keefe on the synthesis of metallocene calix [4] arenes.

All of the contents of this volume have appeared in various issues of the *Journal of Inclusion Phenomena*. Clearly, subscribers to that journal will not need to purchase the book. As it consists of extended abstracts, poster papers and an up-to-the-minute internal conference dialogue publication much may be gleaned from this book. It is chiefly useful as a sourcebook for research ideas and as an overview of the field for those who already have an interest or some prior knowledge. It is not organized in the systematic way that would recommend its use as a teaching resource or as a reference point for undergraduate students. At £59.50 it is certainly going to be on the shelves of workers in the field.

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Tin-Based Antitumour Drugs
M Gielen (ed)
NATO ASI Series H: Cell Biology, Volume 37.
Springer-Verlag, 1990.
217 pages. Hardcover. DM 128.
ISBN 3 540 50417 6

This book is a collection of papers written by speakers at the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on the Effect of Tin upon Malignant Cell Growth held in Brussels, Belgium, in July 1989 and is published as Volume 37 in the NATO ASI Series H. The aim of the workshop was to bring together experts from different disciplines working in the field of tin-based antitumour