

for a course component focused on analytical techniques or conformational analysis, and would also make a good source of individual experiments for lecturers planning a complete course. The manual is reasonably priced, well-written and produced.

ALETHEA B. TABOR
University College London

Advances in Boron Chemistry

W. Siebert, (ed.)

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This book consists of a series of articles which give a summary of the new results presented at the *9th International Meeting on Boron Chemistry* which was held at Heidelberg in 1996. All of the important areas of the subject are covered in the 74 articles presented. The authors are leaders in the field and the breadth of interest in the area today is reflected by the fact that 11 different chapters, each of which includes a plenary lecture, are required to cover the topics discussed. Apart from the well established areas such as the organoboranes and their use in organic synthesis, polyhedral boranes, metallaboranes and carboranes, and boron heterocycles, several recent developments (including chiral organoboranes, transition-metal boryl complexes and boron-containing polymers and materials) are also covered. Even the application of boron compounds as reagents for the boron neutron capture therapy of cancer, which is currently being investigated by groups around the world,

is highlighted in several of the contributions, and the theoretical and computational aspects of the subject are not forgotten.

No single section has been allowed to dominate the meeting and, as a consequence, the total contents of the book, of over 500 pages, gives the reader an excellent opportunity to get a feel for the current developments within the subject area. A particularly useful feature for the reader is the inclusion of over 1200 references, up to 1996, in the articles presented, which reflects the conscientious manner and good style in which each author has written their individual chapter.

The editor of this volume, Walter Siebert, is to be congratulated on bringing together such a valuable collection of original papers. All those associated with this work, especially the authors themselves, can be rightly proud of their efforts, which have resulted in both a very readable and informative volume. It can also act as a useful source book for those wishing to gather information on current developments in the range of topics covered. For the amount of data presented the book is moderately priced, and is especially good value for members of the Royal Society of Chemistry. There is a subject index, but unfortunately no author index, which would have been useful, and reasonably easy to compile. However, that minor criticism should not deflect from the fact that this book offers an excellent opportunity for those who wish to gain some insight into what boron chemistry has to offer in the current scene, be they researchers who are already working in the area, or those with a more general interest.

M. G. H. WALLBRIDGE
University of Warwick, UK