

Book reviews

Chemistry of the Pseudohalides, by (the late) A.M. Golub, H. Köhler and V.V. Skopenko, in *Topics in Inorganic and General Chemistry*, Vol. 21 (series editor, R.J.H. Clark), Elsevier Science Publishers, B.V., Amsterdam, 1986, pp. 480, US\$109.24/Dfl.295, ISBN 0-444-99534-X. Available in USA/Canada from Elsevier Science Publishers Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

This book covers the preparative chemistry and applications of inorganic azides, cyanides, cyanates and fulminates, thiocyanates, selenocyanates, tri-cyanomethanides, and dicyanamides: each of these is covered in its own chapter which are all extensively referenced. In addition there is a final chapter providing a comparative characterization of the pseudohalides (e.g. acidity and structure, solubility, ligand and donor characteristics, etc.).

To those who work on aspects of this field, the book is a mine of information containing not only synthetic data, but also relevant structural data, infrared vibration frequencies, stability constants, and a limited amount of electronic and NMR data. However, the book also makes for good general reading to any inorganic chemist interested in the delights the subject can offer.

The first Edition of this book was published in Germany, with work complete up to about 1975, and written by authors from the USSR and GDR. This new English language edition, also printed in the GDR in a pleasing typeface, is reputed, in the preface (dated 1985), to be updated to 1980. Indeed the bulk of the references pre-date 1975, but there are many up to 1980. Indeed, there are a sprinkling of references from 1981–1984. The long gestation period evidently allowed for a little additional updating, but also regrettably means that the book is not now very up-to-date.

Nevertheless it can be considered as required reading for anyone interested in this important area of coordination chemistry.

The Editor's Desk

Organometallic Intramolecular Coordination Compounds, by Iwao Omae, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, Library 18, Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., Amsterdam, 1986, US\$92.50/Dfl.250, pp. 402. ISBN 0-444-42584-5. Available in USA/Canada from Elsevier Science Publishers Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

This book describes the synthesis, properties and reactions of organometallic intramolecular coordination compounds. The chapters are subdivided according to the donor atom, which may be nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, oxygen, sulfur, halogen, or a coordinate bond. In addition, an introductory chapter deals with the general chemistry of these rings, such as addition, substitution, elimination, insertion, etc. The book contains a wealth of organometallic information presented in a fairly digestible style. The English language presentation is acceptable though with some poorly constructed sections; these do not usually detract from the readability of the text. In general the presentation is relatively non-critical.

The various chapters are mostly based on a series of review articles previously published by the author. While they are updated, it is nevertheless still possible to identify many paragraphs which have been transferred, with some re-writing, from the original review article directly into this text. Certainly the author does not try to hide this fact, but the prospective buyer might find it cheaper to obtain much the same information, though without the update, from reading the original review journals.

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