

Book Review

Organometallic Chemistry Reviews: Section B—Annual Surveys. Vol. 4, No. 4 (1968). SILICON; ANNUAL SURVEY COVERING THE YEAR 1967; by R. W. BOTT; edited by D. SEYFERTH AND R. B. KING. Elsevier Sequoia, Lausanne. 160 pp. Subscription price (4 issues) 80 Sfrs.

It is a truism that the rate of growth of the chemical literature has made it impossible for any chemist to take a total view of his subject. Indeed, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the specialist to maintain even a nodding acquaintanceship with his speciality. Nowhere is this more true than in the field of organometallic chemistry. Consequently the *Annual Surveys of Organometallic Chemistry* produced by Dietmar Seyferth and Bruce King proved very valuable from the first to organometallic chemists and to all those who needed a detailed introduction to any particular area in the field. The progressive increase in size of the first three volumes made it clear that the task of surveying the whole field of organometallic chemistry had surpassed the capacity of even such stalwarts as Professors King and Seyferth. Consequently a change of format has been introduced and Volume 4 has appeared in four parts with a total of fourteen contributors.

Part 4 of Volume 4, prepared by R. W. Bott of the University of Sussex, is concerned with organic chemistry of silicon. The literature coverage extends to some 900 references, almost all of which were published in 1967, and it is clear from even the briefest of glances that literature published in languages other than English has been very well surveyed.

In annual surveys of this type it is very easy to produce a highly condensed and indigestible consecutive listing of research findings. Dr. Bott has avoided this error and has given sufficient detail in crucial areas for the non-specialist to avoid additional examination of the original literature. This is particularly true, for example, of the sections on Si-X bond energies, studies of reaction mechanisms by means of optically active silicon compounds, and the vexed question of p_x - d_x bonding.

The survey is clearly printed with a minimum of errors, although there is a remarkable example of transmutation of elements in the second equation on p. 524. Altogether Section B of *Organometallic Chemistry Reviews* is a valuable addition to the organometallic literature since, in its new journal format, it provides a still more rapid survey of the whole organometallic field than did its hard-covered predecessor. *Organometallic Chemistry Reviews*, Sections A and B, should be in the personal library of every organometallic chemist and is a must for the libraries of all laboratories with interests in organometallic chemistry, synthetic organic chemistry, transition metal chemistry, and catalysis.

M. J. NEWLANDS
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's,
Newfoundland, Canada