

Book Reviews

Organometallic Chemistry Reviews; Section B—Annual Surveys. Vol. 4, No 3. MAIN GROUP METALS, GROUP IVB (EXCLUDING SILICON) AND GROUP VB: ANNUAL SURVEYS COVERING THE YEAR 1967; edited by D. SEYFERTH AND R. B. KING. Elsevier Sequoia, Lausanne. 88 pp. Subscription price (4 issues) 80 Sfs.

This is the third issue of a new periodical which itself is Vol. 4 of the previous book series *Annual Surveys of Organometallic Chemistry*. The first element of group IVB, germanium, is reviewed by E. J. Bulten and includes references to other review articles, synthetic methods, reactivity and bonding. Particular attention has been paid to catenated, metal-bonded and metalloid-bonded derivatives. The final paragraphs cover spectroscopic studies, giving references to the various techniques with no discussion. J. G. A. Luijten reviews organotin chemistry in the second section and this occupies a little less than half of the periodical reflecting the current interest in organotin compounds. The final few paragraphs are again devoted to physical measurements, and also included are references to practical application of the compounds themselves. Lead is reviewed by L. C. Willemsens with cross references to other 1967 reviews. Physical measurements, analysis and applicational aspects are also covered. The summary of physical measurements in these first three reviews is a very useful feature.

The group VB elements, arsenic, antimony and bismuth are all reviewed by G. O. Doak and Leon D. Freedman. In accordance with the current use of and interest in the organic derivatives of these elements, most of the 21 pages are allotted to arsenic and the least, one page, to bismuth.

The coverage of material throughout the issue is reasonably thorough up to the end of 1967, and good use is made of diagrams in the presentation. This issue, like its precursors, continues to be a useful reference for the organometallic chemist.

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Progress in Coordination Chemistry. Edited by MICHAEL CAIS. Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1968, xxxiii+854 pp., 110 tables, 105 illus. Price: Dfl. 125.

This book contains abstracts of the papers presented at the Eleventh International Conference on Coordination Chemistry held in Israel in September 1968. The utility of a book of this nature obviously differs either from that of a conventional textbook or from the usual collection of review articles accumulated under titles such as *Progress in X* or *Advances in Y*. In fact there would seem to be little justification for the publication of conference abstracts unless it leads to the prompt dissemination of information on a subject of interest to a broad spectrum of scientists. Fortunately the present volume meets these criteria. Publication within the same calendar year as a conference held in September is certainly commendable. More than three hundred abstracts are included with a truly international roster of authors. They are subdivided into ten sections and the immediate reaction of most readers, no doubt, will be to compare the number of contributions in their own field of interest with the number in other fields. As might have been anticipated the section on Synthesis and Structure of Coordination Compounds is the largest, but the substantial sections on Homogeneous Catalysis, Photochemistry and Coordination Compounds in Biochemistry no doubt accurately reflect the growing interest in these areas. The usefulness of the individual abstracts is of course very variable and at best they can do no more than whet one's appetite to investigate the subject a little further. This is only possible of course if leading references are supplied as is done in about ninety percent of the abstracts. A case could be made that the editor should insist on the inclusion of references before publication in a book of this nature. Overall this is a book which all coordination chemists could certainly spend a profitable hour browsing through and its availability in libraries for this purpose would be very desirable. Whether many chemists would consider it a worthwhile investment for their own private bookshelf is more questionable.

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