

Book Review

Inorganic Chemistry, The Transition Elements, Vol. 3, Specialist Periodical Reports, Senior Reporter, Dr. B.F.G. Johnson, The Chemical Society, London, October 1974, Price £15.

This Specialist Periodical Report dealing with the inorganic chemistry of the transition elements reviews the literature published between October 1972 and September 1973. Like its predecessors it is a mine of information. Chapter 1, written by C.D. Garner, deals with the early transition metals (183 pages, 1087 references). Chapter 2, by R. Davis, deals with elements of the first transitional period (151 pages, 942 references, plus a detailed review bibliography). Chapter 3, entitled the Noble Metals, written by L.A.P. Kane-Maguire, comprises 108 pages (398 references), and the final chapter, written by J.A. McCleverty, deals with scandium yttrium, the lanthanides and the actinides (34 pages, 285 references). There is an author index but no subject index. Admittedly the construction of a subject index would be a prodigious task but it would certainly add considerably to the value of these reports.

Whilst written in a staccato style, the reviews are generally readable, presenting a considerable body of information in a very concise fashion. In general the reviews are not critical, but rather bibliographical in construction. The emphasis is on the coordination chemistry of the transition metals, in that a separate specialist report deals specifically with organometallic chemistry. However there is a sprinkling of organometallic chemistry included in this volume, particularly in the derivatives of carbon monoxide, cyclopentadiene and other simple organometallic systems.

The book must surely be essential reading matter for devotees of transition metal chemistry and indeed should be recommended browsing material for any inorganic chemist.

At £15 for some 500 pages, the book is moderately expensive. However, it may be noted that fellows of the Chemical Society of London may purchase this book at a preferred rate.

A.B.P.L.