

inorganic chemistry and could easily be the first book that a new researcher in the field reads before moving on to more sophisticated treatments. Overall, I believe the author has been successful in writing a text which will provide some basic ideas in the field and stimulate a thirst for further knowledge.

The Editor's Desk

Dioxygen Activation and Homogeneous Catalytic Oxidation, Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium in Hungary, (Studies in Surface Science and Catalysis, Vol. 66), edited by L.I. Simandi, Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, 1991, 700 pp., US \$225.50, Dfl.395.00. ISBN 0-444-88876-4.

This is the fourth of a series of conferences, the first of which took place in 1979 in France. There followed conferences in Italy in 1984 and in Japan in 1987. The book covers the invited lectures and the posters at the 1991 conference. Many of these are short articles such as might appear in the original journal literature. In general, however, they lack a detailed experimental section.

There are some 76 contributions included in this volume of 687 pages of text covering the activation of dioxygen in the selective oxidation of hydrocarbons, in biomimetic oxidations involving metalloporphyrins and their analogues, polyoxometalates and the synthesis and characterization of dioxygen complexes, etc.

Some of the articles, however, are more general and present a more detailed overview of the topic area. In particular, the following contributions are worthy of comment here: Selective functionalization of saturated hydrocarbons, by Barton and Doller; Catalytic oxidation of hydrocarbons, by Shilov; A perspective of catalytic oxidation, by Read; Selective oxidations with dioxygen catalyzed by ruthenium and rhodium complexes, by James; Biomimetic binding and activation of dioxygen with copper complexes, by Tyeklar and Karlin; Iron and cobalt induced activation of HOOH and of dioxygen, by Sawyer and co-workers; Electronic structural correlations of dioxygen binding of binuclear copper and cobalt complexes, by Solomon and co-workers; and An overview of industrial catalytic oxidations, by Sheldon.

Overall, this book presents a wide survey of topics of current interest in the field and is certainly worthy of purchase, not only for those specifically in the field of dioxygen activation, but also for those with an interest in the field of catalysis in general. The book is prepared as camera-ready copy and overall is well presented.

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