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 ones 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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