

Book review

METAL π -COMPLEXES. COMPLEXES WITH MONO-OLEFINIC LIGANDS, VOL. II PART 2, SPECIFIC ASPECTS, by Max Herberhold, Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1974, price US\$ 96.20.

This monograph consists of five chapters following on from Part 1 of the same volume. The chapters cover spectroscopic studies, structural studies, factors affecting stability, theoretical descriptions and industrial applications of metal π -complexes. Complexes other than those of the mono-olefin variety are also mentioned throughout the 320 pages of discussion and 37 pages of appendix notes, although this may not be obvious from the sub-title. There are 2102 references, but the first 1870 are a repeat of those in Part 1 and not all of these are used in Part 2 itself. Similarly, not all of the first 1870 are used in Part 1. The references are listed in alphabetical order, and to find the page location of a particular reference it is necessary to go to the Author Index. The extra 232 references, numbered from 1880 on, pertain to Part 2 and to some of the footnotes in Part 1. These references are also alphabetically arranged. It should be noted that the indices in each Part refer only to that Part so the advertised extensive cross referencing claim is somewhat misleading. Cross referencing does occur to some extent in the script, but no more than might be expected in any other self contained volume. One feels that the reference system could have been a little better thought out. The claims for a complete literature survey up to the middle of 1972 are somewhat overstated, but the objective of providing a guidebook for newcomers to the field seems to have been accomplished.

Although the emphasis of this book is different to that of Part 1 there is obviously a considerable amount of duplication. Indeed, one of the points made in an earlier review of Part 1 concerned the discussion of spectroscopic data therein despite the stated intention of producing a second book on this aspect. Because of the rapid advances in certain spectroscopic techniques over the last few years, some of the discussion is seriously dated. An example of this is the virtual absence of ^{13}C NMR other than a mention in a footnote. This is one of the unfortunate aspects of a two year gap between the publication of the parts of Volume II. Another one is the 20% increase in price for a book that is only 75% of the length of the first part, and contains much of the same material.

Overall, this book is difficult to recommend in view of the fact that there are other sources of information which will be more up to date and considerably more economical.

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