

PREFACE

The fourth volume in this series of Main Group Chemistry Reviews has been written by the authors who produced earlier issues, thus maintaining continuity in overall approach. Activity in the Main Group area continues at broadly the same level as previously and the length of the current volume is similar to those of the past two years.

As in previous years, it has not been possible to cite all publications and some selection has been inevitable. Again, to maintain the volume at a reasonable length, there are instances where only the subject matter of a paper is mentioned with no discussion. We have felt that the primary value of this compilation is to alert readers to as many specific papers as possible so that most developments in the chemistry of the Main Group Elements can be followed.

There are some changes in the detail of coverage. For example, many investigations now deal with molecules containing multiple bonds particularly between silicon or phosphorus and either carbon or nitrogen. Such information has been collected at the beginning of the appropriate sections of Chapters 4 and 5.

Once again I am grateful to all authors for their skill in converting a mass of information from the primary literature into this single volume review. The typescript has been produced in his usual expert fashion by Trevor Spencer.

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