

Book review

Stereochemistry of Organometallic and Inorganic Compounds, 1. Edited by I. Bernal, University of Houston, Houston, TX, U.S.A., 1986, pp. xii + 452, price: US \$101.75/Dfl. 275.00, ISBN 0-444-42605-1. Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., Amsterdam.

This is the first of a proposed series of review volumes devoted to the implications of stereochemistry in inorganic and organometallic chemistry.

Contents of Volume 1 are:

Chapter 1. Stereochemistry of 1,3-Diene Complexes and the Steric Course of Their Reactions. A. Nakamura, K. Tatsumi and H. Yasuda.

Chapter 2. Stereochemistry of the Phosphates of Divalent Metals. A.G. Nord.

Chapter 3. Transition Metal Complexes with Carbon Disulfide Correlations Between Stereochemistry and Reactivity.

Chapter 4. Stereochemistry of the Bailar Inversion and Related Metal Ion Substitution Reactions. W.G. Jackson.

Chapter 5. Stereochemistry of Acetylenes Coordinated to Cobalt. G. Palyi, G. Varadi and L. Marko.

The Volume consists of five completely independent and unrelated reviews each printed in a different font, one of them directly printed from a low quality dot-matrix manuscript which made this reader dizzy after a few pages. Only the Nord chapter is totally devoted to X-ray data. Three chapters primarily emphasize the stereochemical features of reactivity in organometallic systems. The chapter by Jackson provides a detailed mechanistic analysis of the complicated answer to the simple question concerning the stereochemistry of substitution reactions of cobalt amine complexes.

The quality of the chapters varies dramatically and one in particular has so many parenthetical remarks and grammatical errors that it might find use as an editorial exercise in a scientific writing course.

One gets an impression of five random review articles bound together rather than a collection of material appropriate to elucidating the wonders of stereochemistry.

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