out in this field during the relevant time period. Chapters 2 and 3 are a detailed survey of redox reduction kinetics with extensive tabulated data.

The section on substitution and related reactions contains five chapters. One by Winterton deals with reactions of compounds of the non-metallic elements. Four further chapters by Cross, House, Hay and Burgess discuss substitution reactions of inert metallic complexes of coordination numbers four and five, six and above (chromium), six and above (cobalt), and six and above (other inert centers) respectively. The fifth chapter by Lincoln considers the substitution reactions of labile metal complexes.

The third section, the reactions of organometallic compounds, contains five chapters by Darensbourg and Mangold (substitution and insertion reactions), Sweigart and Stone (metal–alkyl and metal–hydride bond formation and fission), Kane-Maguire (reactivity of coordinated hydrocarbons), Mann (rearrangements, intramolecular exchange and isomerizations of organometallic compounds) and Riley and Tremont (homogenous catalysis of organic reactions by complexes of metal ions).

The final chapter, a compilation of numerical data, is by van Eldik and cites specifically volumes of activation for inorganic and organometallic reactions.

There is a detailed subject index. This book is a necessary purchase for those in the field of inorganic kinetics and mechanisms. As a final note, I might add that the typesetting accuracy is of particular importance in a book such as this which contains a vast amount of data which people will use for reference. One hopes that this accuracy is better than that illustrated on page xiii of the index which has numerous problems.

The Editor's Desk

Stereochemical and Stereophysical Behaviour of Macrocycles. Stereochemistry of Organometallic and Inorganic Compounds, 2. Editor, I. Bernal. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1987, 256 pp., US$95.00, Dfl. 195.00. ISBN 0-44-42815-1.

Chapter 1 by Boeyens and Dobson describes the stereochemistry of metallic macrocycles. It is restricted to monomacrocycles with ring sizes not exceeding 16 and excludes crown ethers. This chapter contains a large amount of structural information providing details of the geometries of a wide range of macrocyclic complexes.

In Chapter 2 by Buschmann the relationship between thermodynamics and the stereochemistry of macrocycles and cryptates is discussed. The chapter includes extensive tables of stability constant information for a large number of complexes.

The final chapters, by Matthes and Parker, are concerned primarily with stereochemical aspects of macrocyclic complexes of the second and third row transition elements and with some additional information on copper and nickel complexes in unusual oxidation states.

For the wealth of data included in this book and for the expert discussion, it is a recommended purchase for all those interested in macrocyclic chemistry and indeed for inorganic coordination chemists in general. The book possesses a fairly detailed subject index.

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