

PREFACE

The present Main Group Chemistry Review differs from its predecessors in two ways. In the first instance it covers the literature published during the eighteen month period from January 1986 to the end of June 1987 and secondly it appears in two volumes. This volume deals with the chemistry of Groups 5 to 8, the earlier Main Groups of the Periodic Table are covered in the preceding volume.

Organisation of the material follows closely that in previous reviews and although it continues to be impossible to be completely comprehensive in coverage, we have attempted to highlight major advances in important areas.

As with previous volumes in this series, I am deeply grateful to the authors for their dedication to the task of sifting the literature and producing readable reviews. In this respect, I am especially grateful to Gary Southerington, who at short notice agreed to write the chapters on the Halogens, Hydrogen and Noble Gases.

I hope the chemical community will continue to find the reviews useful as an introduction to recent work in Main Group Chemistry.

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