

## Book Reviews

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**“Organometallic and Co-ordination Chemistry of Platinum”** by U. Belluco, in collaboration with T. Boschi, G. Carturan, B. Crociani, G. Deganello, M. Nicolini, and P. Uguagliati, published by Academic Press, London, xii + 720 pp., £17.50.

The considerable amount of work being published in inorganic chemistry makes it extremely difficult to keep up with the frontier of the subject for more than a restricted range. The advent of a book which gives a critical and extensive survey of the criteria is of importance; particularly is this appreciated when the topic is of such wide general interest as that of the present work – the Organometallic and Co-ordination Chemistry of Platinum. The field covers interests in organic, industrial, theoretical as well as inorganic chemistry, and favours a unified approach to chemical study.

The authors are to be particularly congratulated on the vast amount of the literature that they have been able to survey; the work appears to include all of general significance to August 1973. It is perhaps ironic that with the present production rate of the literature, this still makes certain areas dated already.

Needless to say, the 701 pages of the book provide an excellent survey and insight into the basic chemistry of the co-ordination compounds of

platinum in valency states (0), (I), (II), (III), and (IV). A very good review of the kinetic studies in platinum chemistry with particular reference to the *trans*-effect is followed by a well documented treatment of hydride chemistry. As may be expected, a significant portion of the text (about 250 pages) is devoted to various aspects of the organometallic chemistry of platinum, with a concluding section devoted to the role of  $d^8$  metals in homogeneous catalysis, with particular reference to the role of  $Pt^{II}$  salts.

Professor Belluco and his collaborators are to be congratulated on providing a well documented and readable account of the vast and important area of chemistry, that certainly maintains the standards of the monographs in “Organometallic Chemistry” edited by Maitlis, Stone and West.

A minor criticism to this review was the difficulty in locating the lists of references, particularly acute in a volume of this size; coupled with perhaps a major problem of price. A book of this nature should be a necessity for all organometallic chemists, but the price will undoubtedly reduce this to a “library” edition.

J. LEWIS  
*University of Cambridge*  
U.K.