

BOOK REVIEW

Catalytic Hydrogenation Over Platinum Metals.
By PAUL N. RYLANDER. Academic Press Inc., New York and London, 1967. xii + 550 pp. Price \$22.50.

Catalytic hydrogenation can be a valuable tool to the synthetic organic chemistry researcher. All too often, he is reluctant to use this tool because of the empirical nature of catalysis and his reluctance to risk his hard won intermediate in a catalytic system which may not work. Seeking facts on the catalyst most likely to work in his system and preparing the catalyst are further deterrents.

Dr. Rylander seeks to make catalytic hydrogenation a far more practical tool. He divides the book into sections by functional groups. He then supplies extensive literature reviews on the catalysts and conditions that have been used successfully. Conditions which have produced isomerization, unexpected or abnormal products are clearly noted.

Dr. Rylander was too modest to mention that the firm which employs him supplies research

quantities of the supported platinum group hydrogenation catalysts. Thus, the researcher in organic synthesis is spared the pains of preparing his own catalyst. Instead, he knows he is starting with an active catalyst—whether it works on his system or not.

For the organic synthesis going commercial, Dr. Rylander gives many hints useful in developing the rugged catalysts needed for long, economical life.

The subscriber to the *Journal of Catalysis* will already broadly know much of what this book contains. At the same time, he will know few of the many useful details and may experience difficulty finding them in the literature.

In the reviewer's opinion, this book should be in every library where a significant amount of organic synthesis research is done. At the same time, few individuals will be able to justify owning a copy.

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