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BOOK REVIEW

STEREOCHEMISTRY OF ORGANOMETALLIC AND INORGANIC COMPOUNDS: VOLUME 1

I. BERNAL (ed)

Amsterdam: Elsevier 1986 pp 4451 + xii US \$101.75, Dfl 275.00 ISBN 0 444 42605 1 (Vol. 1), 0 444 42604 3 (Series)

This volume is the first in a series which aims to gather reviews on many and varied aspects of stereochemistry inorganic chemistry. Since the field of study represents one of the cornerstones of all branches of the science, the aim of the editor is an ambitious one. Five chapters comprise this volume and cover the stereochemistry and reactions of 1,3-diene complexes (A. Nakamura *et al.*), the stereochemistry divalent metal phosphates (A.G. Nord), transition metal complexes of carbon disulfide (C. Bianchini *et al.*), the Bailar inversion and related reactions (W.G. Jackson) and the stereochemistry of cobalt complexes of acetylenes (G. Palyi *et al.*). The wide range of topics illustrates the catholic nature of research in the field of stereochemistry.

Within the bounds set by the individual authors, all of the reviews are comprehensive and penetrating. Care has been taken to acknowledge other summaries which have appeared previously, and duplication is largely avoided. Nord's chapter on phosphates highlights an area of research which has been somewhat overlooked in the past and will prove to be major starting reference for subsequent studies. The analysis of the Bailar inversion is magisterial and it was pleasing to see original work incorporated such that much previous data from the literature could be rationalized. In the other three chapters relating structure with reactivity, the authors have chosen to do more than simply report the state of the art; they all point to the future, indicating areas worthy of further research and outline questions that remain to be answered and problems to be solved. This approach adds appreciably to the value of the reviews.

My two reservations concerning the volume arise from the production. The publisher makes use of camera-ready copy and the quality is somewhat variable from chapter to chapter. In particular, chapter 3 is a bit of a strain on the eyes after a time. Secondly, the index is not well organized, nor it is comprehensive. It is arranged chapter by chapter and I hope that a more solid effort can be made after a few more volumes are published.

Notwithstanding these two points, it should be said that the series is timely and the first volume promises much for the future. It will be an essential acquisition for every good chemistry library and although the prices is a little formidable, individual researchers will wish to acquire certain volumes for their own use. I eagerly await the subsequent volumes.

P.A. Williams

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