

BOOK REVIEW

INORGANIC SYNTHESSES, VOLUME 24. Edited by J.M. ShreeveWiley, New York 1986, £ 45.60.

Most practising inorganic chemists use Inorganic Syntheses on occasion and the availability of tried and, above all, tested recipes is of great importance. Volume 24 of the series, since it is edited by an arch-practitioner of the art of synthesis of fluorine compounds, is likely to be of very considerable use to inorganic fluorine chemists. The opening chapter contains the synthesis of 46 compounds ranging from AgAsF_6 , through ClO_2F and WOF_4 to $\text{Xe}(\text{OSeF}_5)_2$. A subsequent chapter contains recipes for many trifluoromethylsulphonates and there are some fluorine-containing compounds described in the chapter on Main Group and Transition Metal compounds.

Although the editor, in her preface, rightly remarks on the importance of safety in preparative procedures it is sad to note the emphasis on every page on cautions to be aware of in using the preparation. Much of this is undoubtedly due to Safety Legislation but one really has to wonder if many of these procedures (e.g. the preparation of ClO_2F or ClF_3) are really safe in the hands of the inexperienced and unskilled.

Overall, a volume that will be much used by many of the readers of this Journal.

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