

BOOK REVIEW

Fundamentals of Theoretical Organic Chemistry; by O. A. REUTOV, North-Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1967, viii + 593 pages, 150s.

This book is a translation (said on the cover to have been brought up-to-date) of the 2nd (1964) Russian Edition of "Theoretical Problems of Organic Chemistry". It is concerned mainly with organic reaction mechanisms, and is intended as a text book for undergraduate and postgraduate students. It must thus be considered alongside the very good English language text books already available in the field, and does not, on the whole, offer any serious competition to them. It can, however, be profitably read as a complement to them by someone already reasonably well informed in this branch of chemistry, not only because it gives prominence to the contributions of Soviet chemists, which are relatively neglected in the Western texts, but also because it adopts a rather different approach to some familiar topics. Organometallic chemists will find of considerable interest the sections dealing with the role of organometallic compounds in studies of free radicals and of substitutions at a saturated carbon atom, which are dealt with more fully than in the comparable English and American books.

Your reviewer found the pages displeasing in appearance and the print unpleasant to read. At the price the book should be much better produced.

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