

Book review

Special Lectures Presented at the XXIIIrd International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., July 26–30, 1971, Volume 6, Butterworths, London, 1971, 296 pp., £ 4.00, U.S.\$ 12.00

This volume contains the texts of ten special lectures presented at the IUPAC meeting cited above in the areas of organo-transition metal chemistry and homogenous catalysis. These lectures were given by outstanding authorities in their fields who are currently doing exciting and significant work. A general perusal of this volume stimulates thought on the relationship between much basic transition metal organometallic chemistry and many of the chemical processes involved in homogenous catalysis systems of considerable importance in the synthesis of useful and interesting organic compounds and polymers.

Most of the lectures in this volume are general accounts of the authors' recent researches somewhat like articles in *Accounts of Chemical Research*. The lecture by Professor Seyferth is particularly valuable since it provides the first useful survey on the chemistry of alkylidynetricobalt nonacarbonyl complexes. On the other hand, the lecture by Professor Cotton concerns the details of the X-ray crystallography of two specific organometallic compounds which are much more appropriate for publication as a regular journal article rather than as a chapter in a book of this type.

This book has been printed by direct photographic reproduction of the authors' manuscripts. This has apparently made possible the appearance of this volume in the same year as the IUPAC Congress and has kept the cost of this volume relatively low for scientific books. These two benefits seem well worth the disadvantage of a messy appearance of some of the chapters, notably that of Professor Lewis, where numerous handwritten corrections are on the manuscript being photographically reproduced.

In summary, this book is recommended reading for persons interested in transition metal organometallic chemistry and homogenous catalysis. The relatively low cost of this book should allow some such persons to add the book to their personal libraries. In addition, all institutional libraries should own a copy of this interesting book.

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