

BOOK REVIEW

Methods of Elemento-Inorganic Chemistry. Vol. 1. The Organic Compounds of Boron, Aluminium, Gallium, Indium and Thallium, by A. N. NESMEYANOV AND R. A. SOKOLIK, North Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1967, xvi + 628 pages, D.fl. 87.—.

This book is an English translation of the first of a series of monographs on the organometallic chemistry of all the elements, edited by A. N. Nesmeyanov and K. A. Kocheshkov. The series represents a very ambitious project and one, which on the whole, is to be welcomed. However, with regard to the present volume, there must be considerable reservations. The first concerns the completeness with which the literature is covered. This English edition is published in 1967, and is announced as a Revised (English) Edition, dated 1966, from the original Russian, dated 1964. In fact there are very few references later than 1961, except in selected chapters (such as that on hydroboration) which have a few papers up to 1964. In the context of organoboron and organoaluminium chemistry, this is a very severe handicap, both because of the large amount of work published regularly, and also because of other books or reviews covering the same area but more thoroughly.

This book is written in a rather old-fashioned manner, with the emphasis on preparative chemistry. Information on physical and mechanistic data is extremely scanty. However, if one is seeking recipes for preparing individual compounds, then those provided in the present volume seem very adequate.

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