

BOOK REVIEW

Inorganic Chemistry; by R. B. HESLOP AND P. L. ROBINSON; 3rd completely revised edition, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1967, viii + 774 pp., Dfl. 32.50 (65s, \$ 11,—)

With the increasing application of physical methods to inorganic chemistry, the emphasis in text-books has changed from description of compounds and reactions to interpretation in terms of thermodynamics and valence.

"Comprehensive" textbooks are becoming increasingly difficult to write, since, if they are to be useful to students, factual material must be excluded to make way for discussion on physicochemical background. The third edition of *Inorganic Chemistry* by R. B. Heslop and P. L. Robinson claims to be "a guide to advanced study". The classical approach of a systematic group-by-group description is maintained, but a number of topics, such as bonding in transition-metal complexes, the solid state, acids and bases, oxidation-reduction, coordination compounds and substitution reactions are treated in separate chapters. The preparation and reactions of organometallic compounds are considered in one chapter, and references to structures of such compounds appear scattered throughout the book: there is little attempt to relate structures and reactivity, or to discuss structures of organometallic compounds in terms of valence theory.

The authors have tried to make this book suitable for various levels of student from advanced high school pupils to University honours graduates, and in this they have been remarkably successful. The chapters on physicochemical principles are lucidly written, so they should be of use to those without a background of university physical chemistry, and yet as well point the way for those such as honours students with a more rigorous knowledge. The mainly descriptive chapters give a well selected and balanced picture of inorganic chemistry. At Dfl. 32.50 and with 774 pages, this book is good value for money: its concise style without unnecessary simplification, and skilful selection of material will be of value to chemistry students everywhere.

J. D. SMITH