

Nevertheless, the editor is to be complimented on the production of a book which will probably fill the role of the standard text on the subject for some time.

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Sussex-N.P.L. Computer Analysed Thermochemical Data: Organic and Organometallic Compounds, by J.B. Pedley and J. Rylance, University of Sussex, 1977 £10.00*.

The appearance of this book of tables is most welcome. On the assumption of fixed enthalpies of formation for any inorganic compounds involved, data for the enthalpies of reaction for several thousand organic and organometallic compounds have been processed by a computer to provide a very timely supplement (covering the years 1968–1975) to Cox and Pilcher's authoritative work published in 1970. The book, which is produced in a loose leaf, ring binder format, contains three tables. The first and longest of these lists the standard enthalpy of formation derived from the standard enthalpy of combustion or vaporisation for each compound. The Chemical Abstracts Registry Index name of each compound is given where possible. It is regrettable that the editors have not followed the Chemical Abstracts procedure for ordering the chemical elements in the formula of each compound, which is also given. The second table reports the standard enthalpy changes of 1133 reactions, and the last table gives the standard enthalpies of formation of the inorganic species present in the second table. Finally a list of references is given which is largely confined to the period 1968–1975.

The tables are well set out and easy to read. The pages are not numbered; which is rather inconvenient, when it is realised that the part of the first table of greatest interest to the readers of this journal is a seventeen page section which starts about 140 pages from the beginning. The purchase of this book by libraries is recommended without reservation, but the insubstantial binding and cover may indicate re-binding if general accessibility is intended.

Finally, it is to be hoped that this invaluable project will be maintained in the years ahead. As the thermochemistry of organometallic compounds becomes better explored and understood, the availability of the computerised data file at the University of Sussex will be a significant asset.

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* This book may be obtained from Dr. J.B. Pedley, School of Molecular Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain).