

Book review

Inorganic chemistry of the transition elements, Vol. 4, (A Specialist Periodical Report), B.F.G. Johnson, senior reporter, The Chemical Society, London, 1976, xvi + 536 pp., \$74.25, £27.00.

This is the fourth volume of the Specialist Periodical report published by The Chemical Society covering transition metal chemistry and including the lanthanides and actinides. It is a review of the literature published between October 1973 and September 1974 and adopts a similar format to that of earlier reports. Chapter 1 deals with the chemistry of the Early Transition Elements (Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Tc and Re). The chemistry of the First Transition Period from Manganese to Copper is given in Chapter 2. The chemistry of the Noble Metals (Ru, Os, Rh, Ir, Pd, Pt, Ag, Au) is covered in Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 reviews the advances in the chemistry of Scandium, Yttrium and the Lanthanides and Actinides. This year the inclusion of a chapter devoted to the chemistry of Zinc, Cadmium and Mercury, Chapter 4, which has a sub-section dealing with biological aspects of these metals, marks a change from earlier volumes and recognizes the growing importance of the chemistry of these metals.

The authors of the various chapters are well known transition metal chemists and under the direction of Dr. B.F.G. Johnson, have done a remarkable job in comprehensively reviewing twelve months of literature. For example, the chapter dealing with the Early Transition Elements contains over twelve hundred references to work reported in that period. Where appropriate much of the data is presented in a tabulated form. The volume contains an author index but no subject index. However, the contents of each chapter are broken down in great detail and listed in an extensive Table of Contents.

In summary, this reviewer found the volume to be a well organized and well produced reference book. Perhaps its major drawback is that at £27 or \$74.25 its circulation may prove limited.

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