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Book review

Spectroscopic Properties of Inorganic and Organometallic Compounds, Vol. 8, A Specialist Periodical Report; N.N. Greenwood, senior reporter, The Chemical Society, London, xi + 543 pages, $68.75, £25.00.

Previous volumes of this series of the Chemical Society Specialist Periodical Reports have been reviewed in this journal*, so no explanation of aims, scope, etc., is needed. The present volume surveys the 1974 literature and contains chapters on NMR spectroscopy (B.E. Mann), NQR spectroscopy (J.H. Carpenter), microwave spectroscopy (J.H. Carpenter), vibrational spectra of small symmetric species and single crystals (D.M. Adams), characteristic vibrational frequencies of compounds containing main group elements (S.R. Stobart), vibrational spectra of transition element compounds (M. Goldstein), vibrational spectra of some coordinated ligands (G. Davidson) and Mössbauer spectroscopy (R. Greatrex). An author index completes the book.

The senior reporter warns the reader in the foreword that, because of page restrictions caused by inflationary pressures, the coverage in this series no longer can be complete. The newly instituted omissions and contractions are indicated. Especially unfortunate is the discontinuation of the section on metals in biological systems. Nevertheless, this is still an invaluable book for those who need to know about the spectra of inorganic and organometallic molecules.

Inflation has dealt this series other blows as well. The volume of 663 pages published in 1973 cost £11.00. The present, shorter volume is more than double the price. Unfortunately, its £25 ($68.75) price tag just about puts the present volume (and future volumes of this series) out of the reach of the individual purchaser.

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*Vol. 7: J. Organometal. Chem., 92 (1975) C24; Vol. 6: J. Organometal. Chem., 70 (1974) C14.