olefins (the first class work of H.F. Koch) or by base cleavage of suitable RSiMe₃ species. (d) The account of the reactions of the carbanions is written essentially from the organic chemist viewpoint; there is virtually no mention of their use to make other interesting organometallic derivatives, including those of transition metals. (e) The choice of references on specific topics is occasionally somewhat arbitrary; for example, the brief mention of the stabilization of a carbanion by three α -Me₃Si groups is accompanied by a reference to a 1974 paper on work in which (Me₃Si)₃CLi was used only incidentally, and there is no mention of the first (and standard) preparation of this species (1970) or of the demonstration that (Me₃Si)₃CH has a higher kinetic acidity than Ph₃CH (1975).

Although most of the comments above are somewhat adversely critical, this book is nevertheless of considerable value. In particular the organization of material into sections and sub-sections is excellent, so that a newcomer to carbanion chemistry could very profitably read through the account to form an overall impression of the nature and scope of organic aspects of the chemistry of organic derivatives of lithium and some other strongly electropositive metals before turning to more detailed texts, while the experienced worker in the field can use it to seek out some important references with very little effort. It would, however, have appeared more appropriately as a chapter in a review journal rather than as a separate book.

Readers of this journal may like to give thought to the statement, in the Summary at the end of the book, that the reactions of carbanions "lead to bonds from carbon to every element except the noble gases". Is this known to be the case, I wonder?

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Tables of Spectral Data for Structure Determination of Organic Compounds; by E.O. Pretsch, T. Clerc, J. Seibl and W. Simon, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, etc., 1983, ix + 360 pages, DM 32.

This is a translation by K. Biemann of the second (1981) German edition of this compilation of ¹³C NMR, ¹H NMR, mass, IR and UV-Vis spectral data for use in identification of organic compounds. The data are well chosen and very clearly presented, and the book will be of great value to students and research workers. It does not attempt to describe the relevant theory or experiment, but can be used to good effect by those with even a minimum grounding in those aspects. It is moderately priced (ca. £8.10 or \$ 11.70) and should be available in any laboratory concerned with establishing the identities of organic compounds. A limited amount of information is given for organosilicon, -boron, and -phosphorus compounds, but the value of the book for organometallic chemists will be in identifying organic groups present in organometallic compounds or organic compounds produced by use of organometallics.

The book is available only in soft-cover form; this no doubt keeps the price

down, but one must wonder how well the covers will stand up to the frequent handling which the book will receive in most laboratories.

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