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Book reviews

Inorganic Syntheses, Volume 24. Editor-in Chief: Jean'ne M. Shreeve. Wiley, New York etc. 1986, xxiii + 391 pages, £45.60. ISBN 0-471-83441-6

Additions to this valuable series are always welcome, and this one has the advantage of being the largest ever. The editorship was in the very capable hands of Professor Jean'ne M. Shreeve, and so there was never any doubt that the high standard of the series would be at least maintained.

For a volume under such editorship it is appropriate that fluorine-containing compounds are well represented in that one chapter (81 pages) is devoted to a wide range of fluorine-containing compounds and another (64 pages) to trifluoromethanesulphonates and trifluoromethylsulphonato-*O* complexes. The other chapters are: main group compounds (64 pages), transition metal organometallic compounds (34 pages): transition metal compounds and complexes (62 pages). As usual each procedure has been independently checked; very precise instructions are given for each preparation and dangers and safety precautions are emphasized. There are a very clear list of contents, a list of names and addresses of suppliers of chemicals and equipment (unfortunately, but understandably, only at their American locations), an index of contributors, and cumulative subject and formula indexes for Volumes 21–24.

Inorganic and organometallic chemists owe a debt of gratitude to the editors, contributors, and checkers who made these volumes possible. It is particularly impressive that so many able chemists are prepared to give the time necessary to put the instructions to the test.

His very many friends throughout the world will be pleased to see that this volume is dedicated to Professor Malcolm M. Renfrew on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. After a distinguished career in industry Malcolm Renfrew returned to the University of Idaho, where he has contributed greatly to the development of the Department of Chemistry and of the University as a whole (a contribution rightly recognised last year by the naming of the Chemistry/Physics Building as the Malcolm M. Renfrew Hall). He has also done a great deal for the chemical community generally in the U.S.A. through his service for the American Chemical Society, especially in recent years in the field of laboratory safety. Furthermore he has done much to promote international goodwill through his outstanding capacity for friendship, which is so greatly valued by all those who know him well.

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