

### Book review

---

*Spectroscopic Properties of Inorganic and Organometallic Compounds. Vol. 17.* Senior Reporters G. Davidson and E.A.V. Ebsworth. Royal Society of Chemistry, London 1985. viii + 395 pages. £95.00; U.S. \$138.00. ISBN 0-85186-153-9.

This latest volume in an excellent series of Specialised Periodical Reports looks, if anything, even better than its predecessors. The main chapter, an authoritative and very well organized account by B.E. Mann of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, aims at complete coverage of all relevant papers for nuclei other than the proton, and this is just what users of the volume want; it consists of 155 pages with 2856 references, and it is a remarkably efficient review — a model of its kind. Coverage, as in all the chapters, is of recent literature published up to late 1983.

The other chapters are shorter, but also of high quality; they are: nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy, by K.B. Dillon (18 pages, 96 refs.); rotational spectroscopy, by S. Cradock (10 pages, 105 refs.); characteristic vibrations of Main Group elements by S. Cradock, (22 pages, 344 refs.); vibrational spectra of transition element compounds, by G. Davidson (27 pages, 350 refs.); vibrational spectra of some coordinated ligands, by G. Davidson (52 pages; 426 refs.); Mössbauer spectroscopy, by J.D. Donaldson, S.J. Clark, and S.M. Grimes (95 pages, 771 refs.); gas phase molecular structures determined by electron diffraction, by D.W.H. Rankin and H.E. Robertson (15 pages, 59 refs.).

Sadly, in order to reduce the cost and ensure more rapid publication the next volume will be produced from camera-ready copy, with the inevitable unattractiveness of appearance, decrease in legibility, and increase in bulk (if the scope is maintained) this will entail; probably there will also be an increase in the number of errors, since authors often readily notice in the typeset proof mistakes they have overlooked in multiple readings of their typescripts. But any step taken to ensure the continuance of this very valuable series must be willingly accepted.