

### Book review

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*Dictionary of Organometallic Compounds. First Supplement* edited by J.E. Macintyre, Chapman and Hall, London etc., 1985, xv + 547 pages, £135.00, ISBN 0-412-26320-3.

This is the first supplement to the Dictionary that was very favourably reviewed in this journal (286 (1985) C51) and elsewhere. The supplement is based primarily on a survey of the literature up to mid-1984, but some later material is included. The format is the same as for the original volumes, i.e. for each of the selected compounds are given the empirical formula, the name(s), the structural formula where appropriate, and an indication of the main physical and chemical properties. Many compounds appear for the first time, but some entries update those in the earlier volumes. There are Name and Formula indexes, which are cumulative (i.e. the entries from earlier volumes are also included), and a CAS Registry Number Index. There is also a useful list of books or review (mainly with 1982–1984 dates) dealing with general aspects of organometallic chemistry or compounds of specific elements.

The choice of compounds is very sound, and the editors and contributors are doing an excellent job. However, there are in my opinion still far too few entries on organolithium compounds in view of the importance of these reagents in making other organometallic compounds. I was also disappointed that the very helpful lists of graphical formulae of all the entries under each element that appeared in the original volumes has been omitted from the supplement (apparently on grounds of cost), but I am assured that a cumulative list will appear in the fifth supplement.

I was surprised to see one entry (that for  $\text{Li}[\text{Mg}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CPh})_3]$ ) appearing in full under two elements, which seems rather wasteful, but this may not be a general practice for compounds containing more than one metal.

The volume, like its predecessors, is beautifully produced, and is very reasonably priced at present day levels. Some readers of this review may like to know that access to all the entries in this Dictionary (along with those in the companion series Dictionary of Organic Compounds, a total of 175,000 compounds) is available on-line from DIALOG (as File 303 under the code name HEILBRON).