

unpublished data from 1986 in the authors' own laboratory. The index is clear and well-presented. From the point of view of the organic chemist interested in achieving a specific synthetic transformation this book has the weakness that the uses of selenium reagents are not in general compared with alternative strategies for the same transformation. This is not to blame the authors, since such comparisons are notoriously difficult, and would greatly have expanded the size of the volume. As a book for the organometallic or organic chemist who wishes to learn about organoselenium chemistry in order to improve his acquaintance with the modern synthetic armoury, it is very good. The price is high for a relatively slim volume and will probably exclude most individual purchasers, but it should be available in all serious chemistry libraries.

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Organometallic Chemistry, Volume 16; Specialist Periodical Report of the Royal Society of Chemistry, edited by E.W. Abel and F.G.A. Stone, Royal Society of Chemistry, 1987, xviii + 526 pages, £120, \$236, ISBN 0-85186-641-7.

This volume of the Specialist Periodical Reports in Organometallic Chemistry surveys the literature for the calendar year 1986. The format of the book follows that of previous volumes, with a left to right traverse of the Periodic Table for compounds of the main group elements, and compounds organised primarily by ligand types for derivatives of the transition metals.

As the years and the volumes in this series have passed one may observe that the presentation has become steadily more condensed and laconic, as the literature has expanded. Early volumes showed some efforts at critical reviews, but sadly neither time nor space allow for this today. Both the editors and the reviewers should be congratulated on the speedy appearance of the volume. The reviews seem to be comprehensive, and they largely seek only to record the work published in the field. It is clear that some of the reviewers faced a Herculean task, with several chapters running to well in excess of 300 references, and that on diffraction studies to 1382. This is an extremely valuable compilation of material, and certainly one of the first of my own ports of call in seeking information about recent publications.

The volume has been produced from camera ready manuscripts, and the quality of presentation is somewhat variable. Most is good with clear diagrams, but Chapter 4 was close to illegible in parts, at least in my copy. Author and editors please take note, for next year. There is no index, but the book is well organised and the chapter contents lists make it relatively easy to find the material you want quickly.

This is clearly a book that every serious chemistry library must purchase, in spite of its price. In terms of information content it is fact reasonable value for money, but I look back with great regret to the days when I could afford to buy a copy for myself, even as a relatively humble post-doc.

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