

Book review

Proceedings of the 11th Summer School on Coordination Chemistry and Catalysis, edited by Józef J. Ziółkowski, World Scientific, Singapore, 1988, viii + 491 pages, ISBN 9971-50-488-X.

This book is a collection of the invited lectures from the 11th Summer School on Coordination Chemistry held in Karpacz, Poland in June 1987, together with lectures presented at the Annual Report Meeting on Metal Complex Catalysis in Poland in that year. A rather wide range of topics are considered and the book provides a reasonable overview of many areas of active research.

The papers presented have been roughly grouped as to topic. The first area to be considered is general and theoretical aspects of coordination chemistry, with useful articles on complexes containing strong bridging ligands, and bridging hydrides. The next four articles deal with structure reactivity correlations, with particular reference to the role and importance of the metal and metal–ligand bonds. There is an excellent article by Pombeiro on the activation of carbon–carbon and carbon–nitrogen triple bonds, and a useful discussion of cooperativity effects in catalysis by binuclear complexes from Poilblanc. Section 3 considers metal complex catalysis in organic synthesis and in the chemical industry. The two articles on hydroformylation (one dealing with cobalt and one with rhodium) were unfortunately rather predictable. Kaminsky reviews his recent work on homogeneous Ziegler–Natta catalysis, and there are interesting accounts of the intermediates in catalysed hydrosilylation, and catalysis in multiphase systems.

Section 4 comprises three papers on the synthesis and applications of new ligands, and section 5 deals with transition metal complexes as models for metalloenzymes. There is a useful review of homogeneous catalysts activated by photolysis in section 6, and the volume concludes with an article on ENDOR spectroscopy and its applications in transition metal chemistry.

This volume has been produced from camera ready manuscripts, and the standards of production are rather uneven, and one or two chapters contain numerous typographic errors. There is no index and the chapters do not give detailed contents, which makes it rather difficult to locate material of interest, especially as a number of the chapter titles are rather uninformative. Whilst there are a number of well written and informative lectures here, it must be said that a good deal of the material in them has been published elsewhere. One is forced to ask who will want to buy this book. The answer must be libraries only; few individuals will find a sufficient proportion of the book of pressing enough interest to buy their own copy. One must further ask why there are so many books of this type being published. Few of them are really distinguished by genuinely critical reviews, and even fewer contain material which has not been published in the conventional journals. It

seems surprising that there are still a sufficient number of libraries with large enough budgets and uncritical enough purchasers to make this a worthwhile exercise.

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