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## Book reviews

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*Gmelin handbook of inorganic and organometallic chemistry, 8th edition, Sn—organotin compounds, part 18, organotin-nitrogen compounds R<sub>3</sub>Sn—nitrogen compounds with R = methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl*, Springer Verlag, Berlin, 1990, xiv + 297 pages. DM1488. ISBN 3-540-93617-3.

This volume in the valuable series on organotin compounds is concerned with compounds containing R<sub>3</sub>Sn–N bonds where R = Me, Et, Pr (n- or iso-) or Bu (n-, iso-, sec-, or tert-). The nitrogen-containing groups include (among other) the types NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR', NX<sub>2</sub>, NRX, N=X, NR–NR'R'', NR–N=NR', N–N=N–NR'R''. Some 117 pages are devoted to Me<sub>3</sub>Sn, 73 to Et<sub>3</sub>Sn, 3 to <sup>n</sup>Pr<sub>3</sub>Sn, 1 to <sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>3</sub>Sn, 72 to <sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>3</sub>Sn, and 3 to <sup>i</sup>Bu<sub>3</sub>Sn, <sup>s</sup>Bu<sub>3</sub>Sn and <sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>3</sub>Sn combined. Information about each compound is concisely summarized, much of it presented in tables. X-ray structural data are presented diagrammatically where available. The literature has been searched systematically up to the end of 1988, but there are some later references. The volume opens with the usual helpful listing of recent (1988 and 1989) reviews or general articles on organotin compounds, including their analysis, physical properties, toxicology, and biological and other uses. There is an empirical formula index.

The authors, H. and I. Schumann, are to be congratulated on their good work. Anyone engaged on research on or involving organotin compounds who does not have this series readily available will be working under a considerable handicap.

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**Colin Eaborn**

*Advances in free radical chemistry*, Vol. 1, D.D. Tanner (Ed.), JAI Press, Greenwich (CT), 1990, xiii + 295 pages. £54.00. ISBN 0-89232-862-2.

This is the first in what is apparently meant to be an annual series of volumes. It is of very high quality, and if this standard can be maintained the series will enjoy a high reputation and the articles be much cited.

The volume opens with an exceptionally fine chapter by G.A. Russell on 'Free radical reactions involving saturated and unsaturated alkylmercurials', a field in which the author has made the outstanding contributions. Just a glance through it reveals how much out of date are all the previous accounts of pyrolysis or photolysis of organomercurials, and the implications for free radical reactions of some other alkylmetal species are also briefly considered. Such a chapter represents a creative contribution to the subject rather than simply being a retrospective survey.