the library searching for references in the primary literature, and, perhaps, also much grief in the laboratory.

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DIETMAR SEYFERTH

Mechanism of Elimination Reactions; by W.H. Saunders Jr., and A.F. Cockerill, Wiley, New York, London, 1973, x + 641 pages. £11.15.

This book presents an account of organic elimination reactions as most narrowly conceived, i.e. reactions involving elimination of hydrogen along with some other group, usually from the β-carbon but sometimes from the α- or γ-carbon atom. (An exception is the brief survey of α-elimination of two halogen atoms from the same carbon atom to give carbenes, in reactions involving organometallic intermediates, which gives rise to the only mention of organometallic reagents in the index.) It seems a pity that the opportunity was not taken to incorporate eliminations involving organometallic groups [e.g. from $Si(CH_2)_nHal$ ($n = 2+3$) and $P—CH_2—CH_2—Hal$ systems] into the general context of organic eliminations.

The authors mainly summarize the published information rather than suggest new interpretations or relationships, and the accounts tend to be very generalized, so that specific information is difficult to find. For example, someone wishing to ascertain whether primary alcohols undergo acid-catalysed dehydration by an *E*1 or *E*2 mechanism will receive no clear guidance. There is a good subject index but no author index. The book is reproduced directly from typescript, a presentation which many find tedious to read, but which does keep down the cost.

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