than protons, no mention is made of Fourier transform NMR spectroscopy, which has proven so valuable an addition to NMR methodology in recent years. One might carp about other omissions. For instance, magnetic susceptibility measurements are not covered at all. However, the coverage in this volume is surprisingly complete, and its main value will lie in its comprehensiveness: its breadth, not its depth of coverage.

Methodicum Chimicum, Vol. 8, Übergangselemente und deren Verbindungen, K. Niedenzu and H. Zimmer, volume editors, 1974, ix + 557 pages, DM 268.

This volume, the second of the "Methodicum Chimicum" to be published, is meant to provide its readers with the proven procedures for the preparation of compounds of all the transition metals, including those of Groups IB and IIB, an ambitious and difficult undertaking considering how vast and diverse the field is.

Each transition element is covered in a separate chapter, but the lanthanide elements and the actinide elements are dealt with collectively in two chapters. The volume ends with four chapters which are of the special topics type (transition metal carbonyls; ferrocene and its derivatives; other metallocenes and sandwich complexes; heteropoly compounds). Many of this volume's 32 chapters are written by well-known experts in the areas which they cover, but others are not. The organization of the volume is not uniform. Thus, most chapters on an element and its compounds are organized in terms of available oxidation states, but some others are not. Some of these chapters cover the organic derivatives of the metal; others do not. In fact, in some chapters the organometallic aspects are overly developed at the expense of the strictly inorganic chemistry of the element. Many of the chapters are quite short (e.g., actinides, 6 pages; titanium, 9 pages; ruthenium, 12 pages; rhodium, 7 pages, etc.), and even the longer ones (e.g., mercury, cobalt, nickel) do not exceed 35 pages. Thus the preparative chemistry covered can be presented in only a very sketchy manner, and so these chapters can only be considered as orientational in nature. The person who is interested in any given compound or compound class must then consult the references cited for details. However, as mentioned in the review of Volume 1, this is the intent of the "Methodicum Chimicum".

It is claimed that the literature has been covered through 1970, although some 1972 references can be found in some chapters. The delay in publication is due to the fact that most of the chapters in this volume were written in English and then were translated into German. (Was this really necessary?) Presumably, the English language manuscripts will be published as originally submitted in the English version of the "Methodicum Chimicum", but by that time they will be even more out of date.

Both Volumes 1 and 8 of the "Methodicum Chimicum" have excellent, carefully prepared subject indices which will enhance the utility of these books for their readers.

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