

Book review

Reactive Free Radicals; by J.M. Hay, Academic Press, London, 1974, 158 pages, £4.40.

This is a somewhat specialized book on free radical chemistry. An introduction covers the types of radical reaction which are possible, followed by a chapter on the structure of radicals. Next comes a relatively long treatment of bond dissociation energies (1/5 of the book), the various experimental methods are outlined, followed by a discussion of the information which can be derived from these measurements. The fourth and longest chapter discusses non-polar factors which affect the rate of radical reactions, and the last short chapter is concerned with polar effects, with particular emphasis on attempts to explain activation energies of free radical reactions.

Though organometallic examples are used infrequently, if at all, some of the chapters, particularly the one on bond dissociation energies, could be of interest to chemists working in the area of organometallic chemistry. However, the prominence given to particular ideas, and the selective coverage, make this a book to be read only after a firm foundation has been laid by a more general text.

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