

*Die Chemie der Pyrrole*; by A. Gossauer, Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/-New York, 1974, xx + 433 pp., DM158.

This book presents a thorough and well organized account of all aspects of the chemistry of pyrroles, and lists 2621 references. Its chief interest for organometallic chemists lies in a chapter of 19 pages devoted to pyrrole-metal derivatives, which deals not only with metal and magnesium compounds, but also with boron, silicon, germanium, tin and phosphorus derivatives. The latter section is brief, but gives a good range of leading references.

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*Highlights of Organic Chemistry*; by William J. le Noble, Dekker, New York, xvii + 976 pages, \$19.50.

The publishers announcement for this book, which is described as an Advanced Textbook, says that it "presents a new and exciting treatment of organic chemistry which is both classically based and impressively modern. Unique in its approach, the book surpasses many of the current "physical-organic" texts in terms of broad coverage, readability, and detailed examination of modern organic chemistry's basic concepts." For once the claims are fully justified, for this is an exceptional and first rate work, which teachers of organic chemistry at university level should not fail to examine. Even when they are concerned with courses not sufficiently advanced to recommend this as a class text or even as supplementary reading, they cannot fail to find many sections which will make their own lectures more interesting and exciting.

The chapter headings, which cannot, however, do justice to the breadth or depth of the coverage, are as follows:

Elementary Concepts in Chemistry. Instrumental Techniques in Organic Chemistry. Notes on Nomenclature and Literature. The Structural Theory. Stereochemistry. Conformational Analysis. Strain and Steric Hindrance. Resonance. Aromaticity. Organometallic Compounds. Valence Isomerization. Tautomerism. Photochemistry. The Woodward-Hoffman Rules. Reactive Intermediates: General Considerations. Carbenes. Nitrenes. Free Radicals. Benzyne. Carbonium Ions. Intermediates Related to Carbonium Ions. Carbanions. Complexes. Miscellaneous Intermediates.

The chapter on organometallic compounds is concerned largely with olefin and sandwich complexes, stabilization by complexing, and fluxional molecules, but organometallic chemists will find much to interest and stimulate them in the rest of the book; for example, as an aside in the chapter concerned with reactive intermediates, with reference to stabilization of such intermediates by complexing, there is the pertinent comment: "One should realize that the enormous stabilization claimed in some cases must be taken with a grain of salt: the properties of the stabilized intermediate may be so completely