

altered that it is really no longer proper to consider it a stabilized intermediate. Thus the description of compounds such as  $\text{XYC}=\text{ML}_n$  as carbene metal complexes is no more justified than the description of cyclopropanes as carbene ethylene complexes."

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*Topics in Current Chemistry*; Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1974; No. 50, *Silicon Chemistry 1*, 177 pp., DM48; No. 51, *Silicon Chemistry 2*, 127 pp., DM42.

These two volumes offer four reviews of high quality. In Vol. 50, subjects are "Low-Valent Silicon" (40 pp., ca. 130 references); by H. Bürger and R. Eujen, "Organometallic Syntheses of Carbosilanes" (84 pp., 55 references); by G. Fritz, and "The Chemistry of Silicon—Transition Metal Compounds" (36 pp., 222 references); by F. Höfler. Vol. 51 contains a single review, "Properties and Preparations of Si—Si Linkages" (696 references); by E. Hengge. The review on low-valent silicon is of quite a different character from the others, being concerned predominantly with spectroscopic properties of unstable species; it seems authoritative and well organized, and its inclusion in these volumes will serve to widen the horizons of the great majority of organosilicon chemists. What I have in mind is nicely illustrated by the minor paradox that Vol. No. 51 contains the sentence "The simplest imaginable compound with Si—Si bonding is the disilane  $\text{Si}_2\text{H}_6$ ", whereas three pages of the Bürger—Eujen review are devoted to the properties of  $\text{Si}_2$ ! The review by Fritz is a timely survey of a subject to which he has made such a dominant contribution, while the account by Höfler, with its complete list of Silicon—Transition Metal Compounds reported up to the end of 1972, will be of considerable value to transition metal as well as organosilicon chemists. The review by Hengge is an especially thorough account of a topic which is becoming increasingly important, in large part because of the fine work in recent years by Kumada and his colleagues. All the reviews contain references extending into 1972. Together they form a valuable source of information, and it is a pity they did not appear in a single volume.

The English language, while nowhere ambiguous as far as I could see, is sometimes rather odd, (e.g. " $\text{Si}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$  originates by bromination of  $\text{Si}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$  with  $\text{AgBr}$ ", and "In addition to efforts in the synthesis of . . ."), and publishers should feel some duty to have English language articles checked by a British (or even an American!) chemist.

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