

Book review

Methodicum Chemicum, Vol. 6, *C-N Verbindungen*, F. Korte, Editor-in-Chief, F. Zymalkowski, Volume Editor, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart and Academic Press, New York, 1974, viii + 864 pages, DM 390.

Two previous volumes of the "Methodicum Chemicum" have been reviewed in this journal [1], and the general idea behind this series has been discussed. Volume 6 now has appeared. This book is devoted to the synthesis and chemical reactions of organic compounds with C-N bonds. In 18 chapters by 37 authors we find information concerning the preparation of nitro and nitroso compounds, hydroxylamines, hydrazines and hydrazones, azo and azoxy compounds, aromatic hydrazo compounds and diazonium salts, diazoalkanes, azides, *N*-oxides, oximes, amines, aziridines and azetidines, amino acids, quaternary ammonium salts, nitriles, amides and imides, isonitriles, cyanates and thiocyanates. Nitrogen heterocycles not included here will be covered in another volume. Each chapter is a self-contained, critical review of the preparative procedures which are applicable to the class of compounds under discussion. The discussions are brief; in contrast to the Houben-Weyl volumes, detailed procedures and long tables of examples are not provided. For the chemist who needs to prepare an organic nitrogen compound of any of the types covered in this book, the present volume will be an excellent starting point in his quest for an appropriate procedure. This will be the case especially for those who (like your reviewer) came into organometallic chemistry from the inorganic side of the fence.

The literature in this volume has been covered through 1971 and an abundance of references is provided. Typical is the excellent chapter on diazoalkanes by Regitz, Korobizina and Rodina, which provides 1021 references to research papers as well as a bibliography of 19 reviews and book chapters. There is not complete uniformity throughout the volume. While some chapters, such as the one cited above, cover both the synthesis and the chemical transformations of the compound class under discussion, others restrict their coverage to preparative procedures.

This useful addition to the chemical reference literature provides an excellent 58 page index which greatly facilitates its use. An English version of the present volume will appear in due course.

Department of Chemistry
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (U.S.A.)

DIETMAR SEYFERTH