

Book review

Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms, Volume 3 (A Specialist Periodical Report of the Chemical Society, London), J. Burgess, Senior Editor, The Chemical Society, London, 1974, xvii + 500 pages, £14.00.

This volume serves quite well the stated purpose: to report in a comprehensive but primarily noncritical fashion the literature in this field published over a specific time period, in this instance December 1971 to July 1973. The volume consists of four main sections, dealing with reactions broadly categorized as electron transfer (111 pages), substitution (209 pages), of biochemical interest (20 pages), and organometallic (134 pages). Each section is divided into chapters by reaction types, and the chapters are further subdivided into sections usually according to the metallic element or functional group. A detailed table of contents makes this an organization easy to follow, and although problems in locating specific material may arise from the lack of a subject or formula index, this probably constitutes the inevitable price to be paid for timeliness of publication. An author index is included.

The report covers virtually every relevant publication, and contains over 1800 literature citations. For the most part these reviewers do not content themselves with a mere condensation of the original authors' title or abstract; it seems that the reporters have studied the full papers, summarizing the salient parts in their own words, occasionally offering insights and comments of their own.

A research worker in this broad area will find the reading of parts of the volume essential, and much of the rest helpful and rewarding.

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Errata

J. Organometal. Chem., Vol. 85, No. 2 (February 4th, 1975)

Page 151, the third line from the bottom should read:

cétone allylique peut être conservée assez longtemps); mais elle est accélérée par

Page 156, line 33 should read:

de 2.10 à 2.55 (2 H) (CH₂ du groupe éthyle), un quartet centré à 3.02 (1 H) (>CH—CO) et un massif de 4.82 à 5.94 (3 H) (protons éthyléniques).