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Book review

Annual Reports in Inorganic and General Syntheses — 1972; by K. Niedenzu and H. Zimmer (Eds.), Academic Press, Inc., New York, 1973, xix + 313 pp., \$12.50 (soft cover).

This is the first volume of a series which, if accepted by the intended audience, will be published annually. The purpose of the series is the organization and summary of recent syntheses in inorganic and, in part, organometallic chemistry, with an apparent emphasis, as determined by the authors and editors, on significant compounds, new methods of preparation, and novel structures. Since the book is produced by photocopy and is issued as a paperback, the price is kept reasonable.

The book is organized according to the Periodic Table, and contained in 27 chapters are no less than 2537 references. Besides the main emphasis on synthesis, additional chapters will summarize reaction principles, methods, specific classes of materials, etc. In this first volume, the additional topics are "New Techniques and Reagents in Coordination Chemistry," and "Stabilizing Effects of Large Counter-Ions."

Some of the chapters in the first volume are not consistent in the emphasis on the types of syntheses covered. For example, among the chapters on transition elements, the section on the Group VIB elements contains no mention of low oxidation state chemistry, while other chapters are well-balanced with respect to the chemistry of various oxidation states. The writing is necessarily (perhaps too) concise, and the chapters read in a tenor reminiscent of other books which have the words "Annual Reports" in their titles. There also seems to be a general paucity of structural information; the use of more structural drawings or semi-structural formulations would greatly aid the reading of the material. Reaction details are generally not presented; however, there is a wealth of information contained in the volume, and the reader is expected to use this book as a source of information and a guide to the current literature. Nearly all the references are from the literature of 1972; some were from 1971, but papers earlier than that were not found.

I believe that Annual Reports will become a useful series to practicing inorganic and organometallic chemists. It provides a means whereby a whole year's worth of advances in syntheses can be scanned in a relatively short time. The editors and authors are to be commended on this undertaking.

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