

Book Reviews

Ion Channels. Volume 3. Edited by Toshio Narahashi. Plenum Press, New York and London. 1992. XV + 350 pp. 17 × 25 cm. ISBN 0-306-44166-7. \$75.00.

As major targets for drug action and with a transportation efficiency that the airline industry must surely envy, ion channels deserve plenty of attention. They get it. Volume 3 of *Ion Channels* continues the general outline initiated in the previous two volumes. Ten chapters present a heterogeneous mixture of discussions centered around voltage-gated channels [Na^+ , Ca^{2+}], ligand-gated channels [GABA_A , n-AChR, and excitatory amino acids], mechanisms of activation and desensitization, epileptogenesis, and *Drosophila* genetics.

This collection of reviews contains much of interest to the worker in the field of ion channels and the series illustrates the general importance of the ion channel family. There is a satisfactory subject index and freedom from errors, the material is timely, references are up to date, and the price is quite reasonable. This is probably a useful series for the specialist and for the library. The newcomer to the field will be better advised to turn first to Bertil Hille's book on ion channels for an outstanding introduction to the basics and then turn to the more specialized material in this series.

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Organic Reactions. Volume 43. Leo A. Paquette, Editor-in-Chief. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 1993. vii + 823 pp. 16 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-471-58479-7. \$95.00.

The objectives and format of this classic series are familiar to almost all scientists concerned with organic syntheses. Each volume consists of several comprehensive reviews of important general organic reactions. These reactions are reviewed in such depth that virtually no additional examination of the literature is needed before a synthesist is prepared to apply the particular transformation that is described. Thus, each reaction review consists of a general description of the reaction, i.e. an introduction, followed by a discussion of mechanism, scope and limitations, reaction conditions, exemplary experimental procedures, a tabular survey (with reactants, conditions, products, yields, and references) of almost every literature referenced transformation of the kind being reviewed, and a complete up-to-date list of references. In the present volume reactions that are reviewed are (1) Carbonyl Methylenation and Alkylation Using Titanium-Based Reagents, (2) Anion-Assisted Sigmatropic Rearrangements, and (3) The Baeyer-Villiger Oxidation of Ketones and Aldehydes. The volume concludes with a cumulative list of chapter titles by volume, an author index for volumes 1-43, and a chapter and topic index for the entire series.

The three chapters presented in this volume are written with the thoroughness and completeness characteristic of chapters in earlier volumes. All chemists concerned with the synthesis of organic compounds will want library access to this and the other volumes comprising the *Organic Reactions* series.

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