

BOOK REVIEWS

Survey of Organic Syntheses; by C. A. Buehler and D. E. Pearson, New York/London/Sydney/Toronto, Wiley-Interscience, 1971, xii+1166 pages, £13.00.

This book consists of 20 chapters, each of which considers the ways in which a particular functional group is created from other functional groups, brief discussions of general methods being illustrated by some specific accounts of laboratory procedures. While intended partly for use by students, it could be of considerable use as a convenient reference handbook to organometallic chemists who wish to synthesize special types of organic systems for their researches. Organometallic compounds are given the prominent place they deserve in many of the chapters. There are good author and subject indexes.

C. Eaborn

Organometallic Reactions, Volume 2; Edited by E. I. Becker and M. Tsutsui, ix+450 pages. Wiley Interscience, New York, London, Sydney, Toronto, 1971. Price £10.50.

This is the second volume of a new review journal concerned with the reactions of preparation and use of organometallic compounds. It contains three very substantial reviews, indeed two would be better described as monographs. First, "The Redistribution Reaction" by K. Moedritzer describes in 140 pages with 495 references, exchange reactions of Main Group organometallic compounds. After a general introduction it discusses specifically 20 different types of exchange *e.g.* exchange between element-hydrogen and element-carbon bonds, and provides extensive tables of reactions of each type.

The second review "Reactions of Organotellurium Compounds" by K. J. Irgolic and R. A. Zingaro discusses interestingly the preparation of organotellurium compounds and their reactions in 223 pages with 486 references.

The final review is Part 2 of "The Reactions of Organomercury Compounds" by L. G. Makarova, Chapters 12-17, in 89 pages. Each chapter is concerned with a particular reaction of organomercury compounds and is accompanied by its references, following the style of Part 1 which appeared in Volume 1.

These reviews are all detailed with tables of reactions, and will be very useful to laboratory workers in the fields which they cover. Each is accompanied by instructions for a number of typical preparations. The volume has a useful 26 page index consisting mainly of names of substances mentioned in the reviews.

J. Chatt