

## Book review

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*Organotin Compounds, Volume I*; Edited by A.K. Sawyer, xv + 252 pages. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1971, \$30.00.

This monograph is the first part of a three volume series which brings together chapters on the various types of organotin compounds written by well-qualified authors, who in most cases have themselves made important contributions to the special areas of organotin chemistry they discuss. In this instalment a brief general introduction (5 pages) by G.J.M. van der Kerk and J.G.A. Luijten, is followed by chapters on Organotin Hydrides (73 pages) by E.I. Kupchik, Organotin Halides (71 pages) by G.P. Van der Kelen, E.V. Van der Berghe, and L. Verdonck, and Organotin Compounds with Sn–O Bonds, Organotin Alkoxides, Oxides, and Related Compounds (100 pages) by A.J. Bloodworth and A.G. Davies. All three chapters provide sound comprehensive surveys, and that by Bloodworth and Davies is notably authoritative and well-organized. There are no indexes.

Readers wishing to gain a sound overall acquaintance with organotin chemistry will find the recent books by R.C. Poller and by W.P. Neumann markedly more satisfactory. This new three-volume work will be useful to specialists seeking specific detailed information, although such readers will often know of readily available reviews covering much the same ground as some of the chapters. The content of this and the other two volumes in the series will inevitably overlap very considerably with relevant chapters in the multi-part series on "Organometallic Derivatives of the Group IV Elements" (Ed. A.G. MacDiarmid) currently being issued by the same publisher, and it is not easy to see any justification for this duplication.

The price per page is extremely high, and the three volumes purchased separately will cost \$90 for about 1114 pages, though the complete set will be available for \$75. Possibly the publishers will, as they have done with the very expensive MacDiarmid volumes mentioned above, offer the separate volumes at half-price once the initial round of high price sales is over.

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