

BOOK REVIEW

The Chemistry of the Rarer Platinum Metals (Os, Ru, Ir and Rh); by W. P. GRIFFITH, Interscience Publishers, London, 1967, ix+491 pages, 120 s.

The inorganic chemistry of the second and third row transition elements has expanded rapidly in the last ten years. This book, following an earlier volume in the same series which dealt with rhenium and technetium, attempts to provide a critical and comprehensive account of the chemistry of osmium, ruthenium, iridium and rhodium. The chemistry of these four elements is not adequately treated elsewhere, and the author is to be congratulated on making good the deficiency.

The first chapter deals with the metals themselves and the second presents a general survey of compounds of the elements, summarising physical data in a series of useful tables. The elements are then dealt with individually, the classification being primarily by donor atoms, and, within each section, by oxidation state. Homogeneous catalysis is considered as a separate section for each of the four elements. Each chapter is concluded by comprehensive tables of compounds classified by donor atoms and tables of physical and chemical properties, such as magnetic moment data and rates of hydrogen exchange. The literature has been surveyed comprehensively to the end of 1966.

The book is designed not for continuous reading but, primarily, for reference, and as such fulfils its function admirably. It is a most valuable addition to the literature and should be of great use to all chemists concerned with these elements.

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