

## BOOK REVIEW

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*The Chemistry of Inorganic Ring Systems*; by Ionel Haiduc. Part 1, 622 pages, Part 2, 575 pages. Wiley-Interscience, New York/London, 1970, 250 s per part.

These two books describe the chemistry of inorganic ring systems principally of the Main Group elements, with particular emphasis on derivatives of germanium, tin, phosphorus, arsenic, and sulphur. There are also some brief comments on selected transition metal compounds. These compounds are undoubtedly useful treated together and Professor Haiduc is probably the first to draw attention to this unity.

Part 1 is divided into four sections; the first deals with nomenclature, structure and bonding, and ring-chain equilibria. The second deals with homocyclic compounds of the elements. Section three deals with the heterocyclic compounds of boron, while the fourth deals with similar derivatives of the elements silicon, and to a much smaller extent germanium, tin and lead. The hetero-atoms in the cyclic systems are in the main nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, oxygen, sulphur, and selenium.

Part 2 continues this discussion and in the first section deals with the heterocycles of phosphorus, and to a smaller extent arsenic and antimony. The second section deals with the heterocycles of sulphur, and in a more limited way selenium, while the final section is concerned with metal-containing heterocycles including derivatives of Be, Mg, Zn, Al, Ga, In, Tl, and Sn. In the last section (7 pages) there is a brief, but very selective discussion of derivatives of Ti, V, and of some transition metal complexes such as  $(R_3PtCl)_4$  and  $(RSNi)_6$ . It will be clear from this that the author chooses not to deal with for example transition metal-cluster chemistry, a topic which has been of much current interest. However, this is not intended to be an adverse criticism; the issues which are covered have on the whole been rather neglected.

The author has had a long-standing interest in this field and he produced a much shorter book some ten years ago which, however, was only available in Rumanian and Polish. Despite this it had some influence, even in the West.

These books are well written, the coverage of the literature seems to be fairly comprehensive; the references are complete to 1967, and by means of "added in proof" sections 1968 and early 1969 papers are also discussed.

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