

Book reviews

Spectroscopic Methods in Organometallic Chemistry; Edited by W.O. George, Butterworths, London, 1970, 224 pp. £4.80.

This book is based on six lectures given at a symposium at Kingston Polytechnic, and suffers from the customary defects of such a compilation. The methods covered are *Vibrational Spectroscopy*, *Mössbauer Spectroscopy*, *Nuclear Magnetic Resonance*, *Mass Spectrometry*, *Electron Spin Resonance*, and *Electronic Spectroscopy*. All the chapters (except the last) are of approximately the same length, which presumably reflects their origin in one hour talks rather than their relative importance.

The chapters are very uneven in terms of their coverage of the subject. Some chapters give a good description of what can or cannot be done with a particular technique, others do not. For example, the chapter on electron spin resonance deals only with transition metal complexes, and no mention is made of the use of this method in studies of organometallic radical intermediates. Too many examples are culled from non-organometallic areas (e.g. the NMR line broadening in ethanol) when appropriate organometallic examples could have been chosen. Some of the diagrams and tables give away their origin as slides. In a book, tables should not on the whole be of the type "Nuclear Properties of Some Nuclei of Organometallic Importance", but rather "Nuclear Properties of the Principal Nuclei of Organometallic Importance".

The inclusion of abstracts of research papers (at any rate in the form actually printed) is a mistake. Little significant information is given, and most of the research reported has probably been published by now.

To conclude, this book represents an opportunity wasted, in spite of good chapters on *Vibrational Spectroscopy* by A.J. Downs and *Mass Spectrometry* by T.R. Spalding. However, publishers will no doubt continue to publish books of this type as long as Libraries are prepared to buy them. Ours has unfortunately, bought this one!

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Carbene Chemistry, by W. Kirmse, Academic Press, New York, N.Y., 1971, 2nd ed., xi + 615 pages, \$25.-

The first edition of "Carbene Chemistry" was published in 1964. As the author points out, activity in this field continues at a vigorous pace, and in the six years following