

Book review

Metal π -Complexes, Volume II, Complexes with Mono-olefinic Ligands, Part 1, General Survey, by Max Herberhold, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, London and New York, 1972, xvi + 643 pages, Dfl. 250.–, \$78.25.

In the preface to this volume, the author has stated his aim to provide both a complete literature survey of the complex chemistry of mono-olefins and a guidebook for chemists new to the field. Part 1 opens with a brief historical survey including earlier ideas on the bonding of mono-olefins to metals in their complexes, but it is mainly devoted to the descriptive chemistry of mono-olefin complexes. It represents a great amount of work on the part of its author and is remarkably complete. All in this field of research must indeed be grateful to the author for so handy a work of reference. The text occupies 491 pages, and is well illustrated with 206 figures (formulae and reaction schemes) and 85 tables; it also includes 55 pages of references, 1879 in all. It covers the literature to 1968 and is supplemented by an appendix containing brief summaries of 210 important publications which appeared during 1969–1970. This illustrates the rapid rate of growth with which the author had to contend whilst writing his monograph. It is an enormous tribute to him and to his translator, Dr. J.A. Connor, of Manchester, that they have been able to produce a work which is so complete and up to date. The author has achieved admirably his first aim, and also his second insofar as it is compatible with the first. The book provides an excellent and detailed summary of what is already known. It is developed under the three general headings: (a), general methods of preparation, under which seven methods are discussed; (b), metal π -complexes with mono-olefinic hydrocarbons, classified under the metals and; (c), metal π -complexes with mono-olefins containing functional groups and sub-classified under the metals. It is accompanied by a good author index of 22 pages and subject index of 63 pages.

It is an important, thorough, and useful work of reference which all in its field would undoubtedly like on their own shelves, but at a price of almost \$80.-- it is mainly for the libraries.

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