

BOOK REVIEWS

Carboranes; by Russell N. Grimes, Academic Press, New York, 1970, 271 pages, \$14.

The chemistry of carboranes has developed within the last decade and on the whole the subject is already well served by review articles. Nevertheless Dr. Grimes' book with its 472 references is welcome, since it provides the most thorough collection of data available at this time. The bibliography is complete up to late 1969.

The book is undoubtedly valuable because of the comprehensive coverage of the literature. Thus it is an extremely useful source of data. The approach is rather descriptive and unsophisticated, with emphasis on facts rather than ideas.

M. F. Lappert

Organometallic Compounds. Methods of Synthesis, Physical Constants and Chemical Reactions; edited by M. Dub. *Formula Index* to the 2nd Edition of Volumes I-III; by M. Dub and R. W. Weiss. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 1969, 343 pages, DM 72; U.S. \$ 19.80.

The appearance of this formula index adds greatly to the value of Volumes I-III of this comprehensive source of information on organometallic compounds of the transition metals, germanium, tin, lead, arsenic, antimony and bismuth [see *J. Organometal. Chem.*, 16 (1969) 519]. The publication in its now complete state is essential in the library of any laboratory concerned with organometallic compounds.

C. Eaborn

Redistribution Reactions; by J. C. Lockhart, Academic Press, New York/London, 1970, xi+173 pages, \$9.50.

This book offers a concise and well-ordered account of redistribution reactions. (H. Skinner's definition, *viz.* "A redistribution is one in which bonds change in relative positions, but not in type", is used, and the terms scrambling, redistribution, and exchange are employed interchangeably.) In the main it presents factual information, with the help of many tables of data for individual reactions, but there is also a good outline of the general methods used in the study of redistribution reactions. The thermodynamics implications are clearly indicated, and the probable mechanisms of some of the reactions are considered. The classification is by groups of the Periodic Table, except that the very limited amount of work on transition metals is described in one brief chapter.

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