

BOOK REVIEW

Electronic Transitions in Organometalloids; by B. G. Ramsey, Academic Press, New York and London, 1969, xii + 297 pages, \$16.00.

This book is the first in a series, edited by P. M. Maitlis, F. G. A. Stone, and R. West, which is to be devoted to organometallic compounds. It sets a high standard, and if it is matched by the succeeding volumes then the series will be of considerable importance to organometallic chemists.

Professor Ramsey has written an account of the features and interpretation of visible and ultraviolet spectra in a form which the average organometallic chemist can understand and utilize. He has brought together a very large amount of published information, which is critically assessed, analysed, and systematized, so that previously fragmentary results fall into ordered patterns. Because of this, the book represents a substantial creative contribution, very different from the mere compilation it might have been.

However, the compilation aspect is, rightly, not neglected, and appendixes list the absorption or emission characteristics of over 1100 organometallic compounds. The book would have been worth its purchase price for these tables alone, for they represent a very thorough literature search, and will be of considerable value to research workers in the field. Work published up to August 1968 is covered.

The least satisfactory feature of the book is a minor one, namely the title, since few readers would expect to find the alkali metals, for example, treated as "metalloids". To add to the uncertainty, the publishers state on the dust jacket and in advertisements that the book is about the spectra of the "organometallic derivatives of the non-transition metals of Group VIA". The elements covered are, in fact, as follows: from Group I: Li, Na, K, and Cs; from Group II: Mg; from Group III: B; from Group IV: Si, Ge, Sn, and Pb; from Group V: P, As, Sb, and Bi; from Group VI: Se and Te.

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