

## BOOK REVIEW

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*The Organic Compounds of Zinc and Cadmium*, by N. I. SHEVERDINA AND K. A. KOCHESHKOV, North Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1967, x + 252 pages, D.fl. 36,—

Series: *Methods of Elemento-Organic Chemistry*. Volume 3; edited by A. N. NESMEYANOV AND K. A. KOCHESHKOV.

This is a most timely publication in view of the recent revival of interest in organo-zinc and -cadmium chemistry. The first monograph to appear in print dealing with this subject must understandably pay tribute to the early workers in this field and this is done very adequately indeed. *E.g.* an extensive review of the Reformatski reaction (417 refs.) is included. This book presents a wealth of information on the synthesis, properties and reactions of simple organo-zinc and -cadmium compounds with very detailed descriptions of individual preparations. In this respect this series resembles Houben-Weyl's *Methoden der Organischen Chemie*. The reader will be disappointed, if he requires information on the latest developments in the field, since, contrary to the publishers' claim, there are very few references to papers published after 1962. This, of course, is not the authors' fault (the volume was first published in Russian in 1964), but it does detract from the value of the book. However, if used in conjunction with the sections on zinc and cadmium in Coates' recent book the present monograph is an invaluable source of information essential both to specialists in the field and to libraries used by synthetic organic chemists.

J. G. NOLTES