

Book review

"Homogeneous Catalysis in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry", Volume 1,
"Homogeneous Hydrogenation in Organic Chemistry", F. J. McQuillin,
D. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht/Boston, 1976, viii + 133 pages,
Dfl. 50.-; \$ 19.50.

The principal aim of this small volume is to improve the access of the practicing chemist to information on hydrogenation reactions that are homogeneously catalysed by transition metal complexes. In this aim it succeeds in admirable fashion. Two introductory chapters outline the basic principles and mechanisms, and these are followed by chapters giving a more detailed treatment for five classes of substrate. The related topics of isomerisation, deuteration and asymmetric hydrogenation are also included, and two chapters are devoted to the effects of ligands and solvents and other practical aspects (including the preparation of the principal catalytic complexes).

The advantages and disadvantages of homogeneous systems are clearly presented and throughout sufficient information is provided to permit the reader to assess the utility of the homogeneous systems available. As well as being a very readable and well-produced book, rapid access to information is available through the combined use of the index and a summary table at the end of the text.

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