

Book reviews

The Chemistry of Organic Fluorine Compounds, second (revised) edition by M. Hudlický, Ellis Horwood Ltd., Chichester, via Halstead Press Division, John Wiley and Sons, New York/London/Sydney/Toronto, 1976, xiv + 903 pages, \$ 67.45, £ 35.50.

The descriptive subtitle of this book is "A Laboratory Manual with Comprehensive Literature Coverage" and thus this book is aimed at the practising synthetic chemist. The first 615 pages of the book are devoted to discussions of preparative methods for introducing fluorine into organic compounds; reactions of organic fluorine compounds (including a section on fluorinated organometallics) and their physical, physicochemical and biological properties; analysis and structure determination, including ^{19}F NMR; practical applications. The final part of the book brings first a tabular survey of the practical preparative procedures applicable to the main classes of organic fluorine compounds and then gives over 200 detailed recipes from the literature for fluorinating agents and for the preparation and conversions of many organic fluorine compounds.

This is a useful book for those active in organofluorine chemistry — both the occasional practitioners and the specialists. It presents a large amount of useful information in a well organized manner. The detailed experimental procedures are particularly useful and the liberal use of equations (1520 in all) greatly helps the user. However, this is not a book which one would recommend to the newcomer to become acquainted with organofluorine chemistry — the books by Chambers and by Sheppard and Sharts serve that purpose better.

Over 3800 references are cited in this book. Although this book was published in 1976, the literature coverage extends only until the end of 1971. As the author explains in the preface, there were some problems with the publication of this volume and so delays were encountered.

All references are collected at the end of the book; numbers in brackets after each reference indicate the page(s) on which the reference is quoted: a useful feature. A supplementary author index lists the second and later-placed authors for all references and gives appropriate reference numbers. Useful also is the section at the beginning of the book devoted to the monograph and review literature of organofluorine chemistry. A detailed subject index concludes the book.

This book may be considered an up-dating of the 1962 Houben-Weyl organofluorine volume and as such should find its way onto the shelves of all chemistry libraries and onto the bookshelves of organofluorine aficionados. The price is not excessive when one considers the number of pages and the amount of information which one obtains.