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Book review

"Organotin Compounds: New Chemistry and Applications" (Advances in Chemistry Series No. 157), J. J. Zuckerman, ed., American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1976, x + 299 pages, $ 32.50.

This book brings the proceedings of a symposium on organotin chemistry which was organized by Professor Zuckerman and held during the 171st National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in New York City in April 1976. It contains nineteen papers on diverse aspects of organotin chemistry which include not only the latest results of academic research on the synthesis, structural and spectroscopic properties and reactions of organotin compounds (papers by A. G. Davies, H. G. Kuivila, H. Schumann, M. F. Lappert, J.-C. Pommier and M. Pereyre, J. L. Wardell, R. C. Poller, R. H. Herber, J.-C. Maire, M. Gielen, P. G. Harrison and J. G. Noltes, to name just the senior authors), but also of industrial research (a very interesting paper by Hutton and Oakes of Akzo Chemie on R_2SnX_2 and $RSnX_3$ syntheses from tin(II) halides). Included in this collection also are papers dealing with the application of organotins - as stabilizers, as biocides in agriculture - and with the biochemistry of organotin compounds. The lead-off paper, a survey of the field entitled "Organotin Chemistry: Past, Present and Future", was provided by Professor G. J. M. van der Kerk, whose research group at TNO Utrecht has played such an important and leading role in the development of modern organotin chemistry during the last 25 years.

In terms of style, this collection of papers is a real mixture: some are short reviews; some are "full" papers without an experimental section; still others are "full" papers with an experimental section. This may bother the purist, but certainly not the organotin chemist. Professor Zuckerman's efficient editorial efforts and the American Chemical Society's effective production work made it possible to bring out this book seven months after the symposium was held. By its nature, this book will have only a short useful life, but organotin chemists will appreciate having the papers presented in this symposium on the present status of organotin chemistry collected in one place.

There is much coining of new names for specific compounds or classes of compounds these days, but in his new name for R_3SnM compounds, "organostannylanionoin", Professor Kuivila has come up with a real tongue twister!

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