

*Organic Syntheses via Boranes*; by H.C. Brown, Wiley-Interscience, New York/London/Sydney/Toronto, 1975, xix + 283 pages, \$17.50.

The research carried out by H.C. Brown and his coworkers during the past twenty years has been instrumental in changing organoboron chemistry from a minor, undeveloped branch of organometallic chemistry which was of no utility to the synthetic organic chemist into an important arm of synthetic organic chemistry which rivals organomagnesium and organolithium chemistry in its versatility and ease of application. This book brings us a detailed presentation of the new and useful organoboron chemistry which Professor Brown and his students have developed or adapted over the years. It is written in the "Organic Syntheses" format and covers the following topics: hydroboration with borane and borane derivatives, organoborane conversions, carbon bond formation via organoboranes, and laboratory operations with air-sensitive substances. Each topic except the last is presented in two chapters, the first giving a survey of the chemistry involved in the particular topic, the second giving detailed procedures which have been developed by Professor Brown's coworkers. Such details are welcome, since much of this work has only been tersely summarized in preliminary communications. Of particular interest and utility to organometallic chemists will be the special chapter by G.W. Kramer, A.B. Levy and M.M. Midland which provides details of the techniques which are used in Professor Brown's laboratories in the handling of air-sensitive boron hydrides and organoboranes. This chapter provides clear, detailed instructions with many illustrations and photographs.

This book might be criticized in that it provides a rather parochial view of the organoboron area. The chemistry described is that developed by Professor Brown and his coworkers and few references to the work of others will be found in this book. However, the point of this book is to provide experimental details of those syntheses with which Professor Brown and his coworkers are familiar through their own experience in the laboratory, so this somewhat unbalanced presentation cannot be faulted.

Both organic and organometallic chemists will find this to be a useful little book which will help them to recognize potential applications of organoboranes in their synthetic endeavors and to effect their realization in the laboratory. The relatively modest price of this book will allow individuals as well as libraries to acquire it.

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