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### Book review

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*Mössbauer Spectroscopy*; by A. Vértes, L. Korecz and K. Burger, Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1979, 432 pp., \$73.25, Dfl. 150.00.

The subject matter of this book is not as broad as suggested by the title. The stated aim is to draw particular attention to the Mössbauer spectroscopy of quick frozen (quenched) solutions and to applications in solution chemistry and co-ordination chemistry. After a standard introduction to the technique (122 pages), these topics form the bulk of the text which is completed by relatively brief chapters on biological and metallurgical applications. The book is essentially a survey of the published literature, the approach is similar to that of a Specialist Periodical Report, and does not make for easy reading. The translation from the Hungarian original is generally good but there are a fair number of typographical errors. The sentence at the foot of p. 113, "on the basis of the information of the nuclear firmes it can be supposed that the microprocessorized Mössbauer equipments are to be available in the next future", is fortunately not typical. Isoelectronic compounds are consistently referred to as isoelectric.

In summary a useful reference volume, but not a suitable introduction to Mössbauer spectroscopy for the uninitiated.

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*Metal and Metalloid Amides: Synthesis, Structures, and Physical and Chemical Properties*, by M.F. Lappert, P.P. Power, A.R. Sanger, and R.C. Srivastava; Ellis Horwood Limited, Chichester, and John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1980, 847 pages, £50, \$145.

This excellent new book by Lappert et al. provides a most welcome and long-needed comprehensive overview of the field of metal and metalloid amide chemistry. This is a very large field indeed, since stable compounds which contain