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Book review

NEW SYNTHETIC METHODS, Volumes 4,5 and 6, Verlag Chemie, Weinheim/New York, 1979; Volume 4, viii + 266 pages; Volume 5, viii + 270 pages; Volume 6, viii + 274 pages; DM 68 each.

One of the "must" journals if a chemist is to keep up-to-date, is "Angewandte Chemie", either the German or the International edition which is in English. Of particular value in this journal are the many excellent reviews it brings. These cover all areas of chemistry, and a large number of them is devoted to synthetic methods which are useful to the organic and organometallic chemist. Some of the more recent of these have been collected in the present three volumes which continue Verlag Chemie's "New Synthetic Methods" series. All articles in these books are written in English. They are not the reviews as they originally appeared in "Angewandte Chemie, International Edition in English", rather they are up-dated versions of the originals. These are for the most part critical, not exhaustive, reviews. In the words of the preface, they were written to "describe modern methods in such a way that their advantages, applicability, requirements and limitations become obvious" and "to highlight important recent developments."

Of the 23 reviews contained in these three volumes some will be of greater interest to the organometallic chemist than others. Those which are organometallic in content are: "Hydrozirconation. A New Transition Metal Reagent for Organic Synthesis" (J. Schwartz and J. Labinger, in Vol. 5) and "Cyclometalation Reactions" (M.I. Bruce, in Vol. 6). Others which should have appeal for the "Journal of Organometallic Chemistry" readership are: "Formation, Detection and Reactions of Phosphinidenes" (U. Schmidt, Vol. 4), Oxidation-Reduction Condensation" (T. Mukaiyama, Vol. 4), Teriary Phosphane/Tetrachloromethane, a Versatile Reagent for Chlorination, Dehydration and P-N Linkage" (R. Appel, Vol. 4), "The Synthetic Utility of 2-Oxazolines" (A.I. Meyers and E.D. Mihelich, Vol. 5), Phosphacumulene Ylides and Phosphaallene Ylides" (H.-J. Bestmann, Vol. 6), "Advances in Phase Transfer Catalysis" (E.V. Dehmlow, Vol. 6) and "Titanium Tetrachloride in Organic Synthesis" (T. Mukaiyama, Vol. 6).

Each volume has a table of contents, but there are no author or subject indexes. The print is smaller than usual in technical books; it would have been nice if the books and the printing had been a bit larger.

Although these reviews all have appeared in "Angewandte Chemie", there is a certain advantage to having all those which deal with organic synthesis in one way or another collected in one place. Libraries probably will pay the price, but it is another question how many individuals will be willing to pay DM 68 ($36 at today's exchange rate) for this convenience.

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