

Book review

Catalysis in Organic Synthesis; edited by W.H. Jones, Academic Press, New York, 1980, ix + 314 pages, \$ 29.50.

This book contains the proceedings of the Seventh Conference on Catalysis in Organic Syntheses held in Chicago on June 5–7, 1978. It is divided into four parts. The first part (153 pages) has nine papers on hydrogenation which discuss scattered topics of relatively narrow scope. In the second part (30 pages) there are two papers on solvent effects which should be of general interest and use. The third part (92 pages) of the book contains five papers of current interest presenting lively discussions of homogeneous catalysis. These papers discuss hydrogenation with chromium carbonyl catalysts, palladium catalyzed vinyl substitution reaction of Heck, the interaction of chelated lithium complexes with transition metal compounds, olefin metathesis, and chemicals from coal. In the fourth and last part (33 pages) two papers deal with technological aspects of high pressure equipment, which are followed by a paper discussing the explosion hazards involved with the preparation of trimethylsulfonium bromide.

As can be seen from the above description the book is a real hodgepodge both in topic selection and in quality. Thus the book is clearly not suited for a wide circulation but will prove to be useful in libraries serving a fair number of chemists interested in transition metal catalysis.

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