

Book reviews

"The Place of Transition Metals in Organic Synthesis",
Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol. 295,
D. W. Slocum, ed., The New York Academy of Sciences, New
York, 1977, iii + 282 pages (softcover), \$32.

This volume of the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* brings twenty-three papers which were presented at a conference on the title subject which was held in New York in November 1976. The authors for the most are well known chemists who have been active in research in the area of transition metal organic chemistry. Most have provided review-type papers detailing recent work from their own research groups. In most cases, this research has a direct or at least a loose connection with the topic of the conference, but in a few, the connection is more tenuous. While the majority of the senior authors are U.S. academics (Pittman, Semmelhack, Stille, Klabunde, Rausch, Schwartz, King, Pettit, Faller, Heck, Posner, Brookhart), some are from U.S. industry (Forster, Langer, Pez, Pruett, Hughes) and a few are from other countries (Pauson, Jaouen Rybinskaya, Green, Sutherland, Noyori).

It is impossible to comment on all twenty-three papers separately, but those who are interested in the use of transition metal reagents in organic synthesis will find the papers on the applications of cobalt carbonyl complexes (Pauson), arene metal complexes (Semmelhack, Jaouen palladium catalyst systems (Heck), iron carbonyls (Noyori) and new organocopper reagents (Posner) to organic synthesis of greatest interest. Also quite interesting are those papers of industrial provenance since the work which they report has, in general, not been published in primary research journals.

This book is a worthwhile library acquisition. However, because of the restricted scope of its articles and its price, we hesitate to recommend it for individual purchase.