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Book review

Organometallic Chemistry Reviews, edited by D. Seyferth (coordinating editor), A.G. Davies, E.O. Fischer, J.F. Normant and O.A. Reutov (*Journal of Organometallic Chemistry Library 7*), Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam, U.S. \$ 95.50; D.Fl. 215.00.

This volume has two lengthy reviews and four shorter ones. The longest article is by J.A. Mangravite (183 pages, 487 refs.), which deals with allyl derivatives of the Group 4A metals and mercury (European readers should note that Group 4A refers to Si, Ge, Sn and Pb). The juxtaposition of these five elements is perhaps somewhat strange. On the other hand, Sn, Pb and Hg compound are useful in having weak ligand to metal bonds which makes the allyl derivatives convenient as transfer agents.

Unusually for this set of reviews, there is one contribution in a foreign language and it is the German paper by D. Brandes (140 pages, 529 refs.), on organosilyl derivatives of S, Se and Te. It is, of course, arguable whether organometallic chemists would generally regard these compounds as being within their scope.

The silyl-mercurials in organic synthesis is the topic chosen by W.P. Neumann and K. Reuter (26 pages, 59 refs.), and indeed the Dortmund group has been one of the most active in this area.

Another highly authoritative review is by W.E. Watts on ferrocenylcarboxylations and related species (62 pages, 142 refs.).

The other articles are entitled: Non-catalytic hydrogenation via organoboranes (44 pages, 81 refs.), by K. Avasthi, D. Devaprabhakara, and A. Suzuki, and The chemistry of cobaltocene, cobalticinium salts and other cobalt sandwich compounds (60 pages, 338 refs.), by J.E. Sheats.

Readers of this journal will certainly be very familiar with earlier volumes in this series. The present contributions appear to be of high quality. As is now the general practice, reproduction is by photographic process from type.

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