

## Book review

---

*Advances in Inorganic Biochemistry*, edited by Gunther L. Eichhorn and Luigi G. Marzili, Vol. 1, 1979, Elsevier/North Holland, Amsterdam, 261 pages, US \$ 24.50; Dfl. 50.00.

This book is the first in a series of *Advances*. These are destined to complement and update the two volume treatise, *Inorganic Biochemistry* (edited by G.L. Eichhorn) published in 1973. This was the authoritative text but is clearly becoming somewhat dated. The editors claim that their objectives in the new series are intended both to provide supplements to the original and also to introduce new topics. The chapter headings with authors are as follows: Molecular Properties and Mechanism of Alkaline Phosphatase, Joseph E. Coleman and Jan F. Chlebowski, 61 pages, 212 references; Superoxide and Superoxide Dismutases, Irwin Fridovich, 17 pages, 245 references; The Copper-Containing Oxidase, Bengt Reinhamar, 24 pages, 76 references; Cytochrome P-450 and Other Heme-Containing Oxygenases, John T. Groves, 23 pages, 109 references; B<sub>12</sub>-Dependent Methyl-Transfer Reactions, Y.-T. Fanchiang, W.P. Ridley and J.M. Wood, 14 pages, 45 references; Chromium(III) and Cobalt(III) Nucleotides as Biological Probes, W.W. Cleland and A.S. Mildvan, 27 pages, 39 references; The Structure of the (Na<sup>+</sup> + K<sup>+</sup>)-ATPase. Implications for the Mechanism of Sodium and Potassium Transport, Charles M. Grisham, 23 pages, 105 references; Hemerythrin and Myohemerythrin. A Review of Models Based on X-Ray Crystallographic Data, R.E. Stenkamp and L.H. Jensen, 23 pages, 45 references; Hemerythrin. A Review of Structural and Spectroscopic Properties, Joann Sanders Loehr and Thomas M. Loehr, 16 pages 54 references.

Despite the fact that the book has been prepared by a "camera-ready" technique, there are generally very few references beyond 1977. The appearance of the book is neat. There is an eight page subject index.

The only chapter of direct interest to organometallic chemists is that by Wood and his coworkers on B<sub>12</sub>-Dependent Methyl-Transfer Reactions. Nevertheless the title of the chapter is somewhat misleading, as may be judged from the more detailed contents as follows: Electrophilic Attack on the Co—C Bond of Methyl-B<sub>12</sub>; Free Radical Attack on the Co—C Bond of Methyl-B<sub>12</sub>; Reactions of Platinum with Methyl-B<sub>12</sub>; and Nucleophilic Attack on the Co—C Bond of Methyl-B<sub>12</sub>. The reader will observe that the authors deal largely with model reactions for biological systems with emphasis on results from the authors' laboratory.

School of Molecular Sciences,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)

MICHAEL F. LAPPERT