

Journal of Organometallic Chemistry, 243 (1983) C31
Elsevier Sequoia S.A., Lausanne — Printed in The Netherlands

Book review

Advances in Organometallic Chemistry, Volume 20; edited by F.G.A. Stone and R. West, Academic Press, New York and London, 1982, viii + 366 pages, US\$ 56.00.

This series is now nearly twenty years old, but the standard and utility seem as high as ever. This volume commences with a review by Gladysz of metal formyl complexes which is comprehensive, although the implications for theories of catalysis could have been more widely explored. The organic chemistry of gold, of relatively recent provenance is then reviewed by Anderson. Puddephatt's book of only 4 years ago had 150 references and this review has more than 340. Clearly the area is growing rapidly. There follows a contribution from China by Huang and Shen on arsonium ylides. This is a development to be welcomed, though the mention of delays in publication for 15 years only hints at the problems which had to be overcome to enable such a contribution to be made. The methylene bridge is impressively reviewed by Herrmann, who has made such significant contributions to this subject, and Corriu and Guerin describe the recent advances in understanding nucleophilic displacement at silicon. Finally, Thayer and Brinckman discuss the biological methylation of metals and metalloids. This short but extensive review provides a signal service by assembling related data, often from very disparate and difficultly accessible sources.

This volume is notable for its authoritativeness, interest, and range of subject matter; most organometallic chemists will find something of interest, some will find a lot. It is thoroughly to be recommended.

G.J. LEIGH

*Unit of Nitrogen Fixation,
University of Sussex,
Brighton BN1 9RQ (Great Britain)*