

New Synthetic Methodology and Biologically Active Substances; edited by Z.-I. Yoshida, Elsevier, Amsterdam — Oxford — New York, 1981, x + 281 pages, Dfl. 160.00/US\$78.00.

This book (which is number 6 in the Elsevier Studies in Organic Chemistry series) presents a collection of the plenary and invited lectures at the First International Kyoto Conference on New Aspects of Organic Chemistry, held at Kyoto, Japan, in December 1980. It has the limitations which apply to all such compilations. It is briefly reviewed here primarily because it includes an account of a lecture by Professor Y. Kumada on "Some asymmetric syntheses catalyzed by chiral phosphine-transition metal complexes", which, although only 20 double spaced typed pages in length, presents a very useful survey of previous work in the field as well as describing Professor Kumada's contributions. There is also an account of "Selective synthetic reactions by means of organoaluminium amphoteric reagents" by K. Oshima, Y. Yamamoto, and H. Nozaki, which will certainly be of interest to some organometallic chemists. In other chapters organometallic compounds are mentioned only incidentally, if at all.

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JOURNAL OF ORGANOMETALLIC CHEMISTRY, Vol. 228, No. 1

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