

the guest and host experience some degree. . .of perturbation in their geometric, chemical, electronic and optical properties.”

The book is very well produced with a clear format and excellent diagrams. The level of many of the chapters is entirely suitable for an introduction to the subject.

I very strongly recommend this book to those interested in inorganic and organometallic chemistry.

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*The Organic and Bio-organic Activation of Carbon Dioxide*; edited by S. Inone and N. Yamazaki, Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo, and Halsted Press, New York, N.Y., 1982, xi + 280 pages, £ 39.00.

For a short time the activation of carbon dioxide looked likely to become a popular subject with grant-producing potential amongst organometallic chemists. Fortunately, it was quickly realised that there is no problem activating carbon dioxide, although doing something useful with it still provides a challenge.

This book provides a complete review of its chemistry, which is primarily organic and biological, and covers a wide range. The purely organometallic interest resides in a single chapter of some 70 pages. Some of the material covered is very mundane, some is questionable (many carbon dioxide “complexes” may be no such thing), and some is of considerable interest. The review is comprehensive and well written and certainly informative and worth reading. It indicates quite clearly that we are a considerable distance from the facile synthesis of, say, carbon—carbon bonds from carbon dioxide. A low energy route to compounds of that type might well have economic interest.

For anyone interested in all aspects of carbon dioxide chemistry this book will prove invaluable. For the single-minded organometallic chemist it will be interesting and perhaps useful, but he will think twice before paying the full price for only 25% of the book. For the more broad-minded it will provide education and pleasure.

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