

Book review

Transition Metal Chemistry; edited by G.A. Melson and B.N. Figgis, Volume No. 8, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York and Basel, 1982, Sw.Fr. 185.

It is several years since the last volume of this series was published. The editors suggest that the series had been suspended because researchers had turned away from the traditional fields of physical and inorganic chemistry towards metal organic chemistry and biological inorganic chemistry, each of which areas is well served by review series of their own; however, they suggest that the time is ripe to bring some features of these newer fields together with the longer established subject matter. Readers will have to judge whether the choice of the three topics which form the present volume meet these requirements.

There are three contributions in this book. The first, entitled "ESR spectra of metal complexes of the first transition series in low-symmetry environments" by A. Bencini and D. Gatteschi, comprises 178 pages and 587 references. The second, entitled "*3d* Metal complexes with tripodal polytertiary phosphines and arsines" by L. Sacconi and F. Mani, comprises 73 pages and 136 references, and the last, entitled "Stereochemistry of α -hydroxycarboxylate complexes" by R.E. Tapscott, has 176 pages and 429 references. Apart from a few isolated references to the 1980 literature, coverage is up to the end of 1979. There is a substantial author index but only a brief (3 pages) subject index. The book is produced by direct reproduction from type, but nevertheless looks quite neat.

There is relatively little in this volume of direct interest to practitioners of organometallic chemistry. Alkyl, aryl, and acyl complexes occupy three pages in Chapter 2 and are mentioned in tabular form in Chapter 1 for some titanocene(III) complexes and group 8 metallocene derivatives.

Chapter 1 is rather theoretical and deals only with solid state spectra. There is a specific disclaimer in the Introduction regarding coverage of organometallic chemistry.

The topics under discussion obviously are relatively specialised, particularly, as noted above, in terms of the limitations which the authors set themselves. Nevertheless, the authors are acknowledged experts and this is reflected in their articles.

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