

one working man-year, there is a remarkable compression of "scientific history" in these volumes. "Organometallic Chemistry" has been compiled in parallel by many authors and it must have consumed more than twenty man-years in the making. In consequence, organometallic chemists have to hand an account that lags behind the original events by only a very few years.

The scholarship and thoroughness of the Companion and Index volumes of "Pepys" have been universally acclaimed and there is no doubt that the index volume to "Organometallic Chemistry" will find heavy use. It is more than a mere index. Michael Bruce provides us with a fully comprehensive list of structures determined by diffraction methods — an immense task even with the files of the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre available, and G. Brent Young has supplied an index of English language reviews to complement the lists published in the early seventies in *Adv. Organomet. Chem.*

The Formula index enters compounds under all metals present and the Author index uses the names of all the authors. The most difficult task undoubtedly faced the compiler of the Subject Index (J. Newton) and it would be unreasonable to be too dissatisfied with the result. It cannot, however, match the index of "Pepys", which appears to exceed the expectation of all reviewers. Thus, "Metallacyclopentadienes" nets only two references to the direct use of the term, instead of leading to all the references to this class of compounds. There are also some less pardonable quirks: American spelling is used for Al and S, but a few entries appear under "Sulph-", and of these some do not appear under "Sulf-".

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Spectroscopic Properties of Inorganic and Organometallic Compounds, Volume 15, (Senior Reporters: G. Davidson and E.A.V. Ebsworth), A Specialist Periodical Report of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London, 1982 xv + 387 pp., £70.00 (\$130.00).

This is the latest volume in a well-known and well-respected series, and covers the spectroscopic literature pertaining to inorganic and organometallic complexes from late 1980 to late 1981. Very few practicing chemists can be unaware of this series and the material it covers, but this seemed an appropriate opportunity to examine the standard of the current volume compared with that of a volume published ten years ago (Volume 5) in the same series. The critical parameters are summarised in the Table, and it is immediately apparent that (with the curious exception of NQR spectroscopy) the articles in the 1982 volume have been seriously shortened. The effect of this has been to almost completely eliminate the discussion and learned criticism by the authors which was central in the 1972 volume. To take a specific example, in 1972 Brian Mann devoted 38 pages to an invaluable treatment of 283 references concerning the stereochemistry of transition metal complexes, as investigated by NMR spectroscopy. In 1982, 39 pages were devoted to the same topic, but 827 ref-

erences were covered. The nett effect has been to reduce the article from a critical review to little more than a catalogue. That is not to say that the 1982 article is not valuable; as a reference source (and particularly with the invaluable Appendix which lists papers according to the nucleus studied) it cannot be faulted, and I have a tremendous respect for the intensive work and scholarship required to produce a 140 page article covering 2469 references. As a reference source, this work must find a place in the library of every active inorganic chemistry department. However, one cannot but feel regret concerning the editorial decisions that produced the emasculation of the series, and the eccentric marketing policy of the Royal Society of Chemistry which has produced almost a twelve-fold increase in cost for a significantly inferior product over a ten year period.

TABLE

COMPARISON OF VOLUMES 5 AND 15 OF "SPECTROSCOPIC PROPERTIES OF INORGANIC AND ORGANOMETALLIC COMPOUNDS"

Type of spectroscopy	no. of pages		no. of refs.	
	1972	1982	1972	1982
NMR	207	140	1975	2469
NQR	12	18	63	99
Microwave/Rotational	19	16	81	191
Vibrational				
(i) small species and single crystals	40	—	304	—
(ii) main group compounds	54	20	379	249
(iii) transition metal compounds	58	23	369	395
(iv) coordinated ligands	103	77	586	388
Mössbauer	110	79	640	770
Electron diffraction	—	14	—	83
	1972		1982	
Cost per volume	£10.00		£70.00	
Cost per page	1.56 p		18.09 p	

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