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Book review

Chemicals from Synthesis Gas; by Robert A. Sheldon (Series: Catalysis by Metal Complexes) D. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1983, xx + 216 pages, Dfl. 110.00, US\$ 48.00. ISBN 90-277-1489-4.

The chemistry of synthesis gas ("syn gas") has been the subject of intensive investigation, sometimes for political as much as scientific reasons, for at least sixty years. This book attempts to cover the chemistry of syn gas, particularly in respect of catalysis by transition metals. It shows how syn gas can be used as a unifying theme for the exposition of a vast range of organo-transition-metal chemistry. It can be used for general background for chemists engaged in organotransition metal chemistry, as suggested by the author, but it could also make a satisfactory advanced undergraduate textbook.

The book starts with a glossary, an introduction to petrochemicals and a long chapter on mechanistic principles, which covers such basic concepts as oxidative addition, reductive elimination, and the 18-electron rule. These are not dealt with in depth, but in sufficient detail for the purposes of the book.

The basic material of the book consists of chapters on hydrocarbon synthesis, olefin hydroformylation, olefin carbonylation, methanol and formaldehyde, methanol carbonylation, nitrogen systems, and oxygenates. The emphasis is very much on chemistry rather than practice in industry. Each chapter has a good list of references to the original literature, though in general very few later than 1981.

The book is clearly written, well produced, and contains an adequate index. It will be useful in a variety of contexts and is thoroughly recommended.

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Corrigendum

XIIth International Conference on Organometallic Chemistry

Contrary to earlier information and due to purely technical reasons the above conference will be held during the second week of September 1985, i.e. September 8–13, 1985.

The Organizing Committee