

in Edinburgh; the best that we have seen or can hope for is a book of one-page abstracts! This clearly undervalues both the material presented and the learned discussion of the delegates.

This present volume of mechanistic aspects of inorganic reactions well illustrates what can be achieved with camera-ready-copy and cooperative authors, and at approximately £0.10 per page, with a detailed and useful index, no library should be without a copy. Moreover, at the current price of books, I expect it will find a significant number of private sales.

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Book review

Gmelin handbook of inorganic chemistry, 8th Edition. *W — Tungsten, Supplement Volume B5: Tungstates of Group IIIA and IIIB Metals*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1984, xvi + 306 pages, DM 987; ISBN 3-540-93492-8.

This is the sixth volume of the Gmelin Handbook to deal with the chemistry of tungsten (System Number 54) since the main volume was published in 1933, and the fourth to deal exclusively with oxides. What distinguishes this volume from its predecessors, however, is its remarkably inaccurate title, which would suggest that the volume only describes the tungstates of aluminium, gallium, indium, thallium, scandium, yttrium and lanthanum: in fact, well over half of the volume describes the tungstates of the lanthanide (rare earth) elements. The title apart, the authors (D. Gras, F. Schroder and S. Waschk) have produced a thorough and detailed survey of their subject, and the excellent quality of the illustrations adds significantly to the value of this learned volume. However, it is difficult, even with an active imagination, to envisage that this volume will be of even passing interest to the most broad-minded organometallic chemist (except, possibly, one looking for new heteropoly anion complexes). How long will it be before we see the crucially important volumes upon the coordination and organometallic complexes of tungsten? These are long overdue and eagerly anticipated; fifty-one years is a very long wait!

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