

tunately this is a fast-moving field and a good deal has happened since that date. The index seems useful and complete.

This book is not a complete overview of the subject of stereoselective synthesis, but the topics which are considered are well reviewed. The stress throughout is on chemical utility, reflecting the now well established importance of this topic in commercial as well as academic circles. The style is both readable and informative. For a relatively slim volume, the price is probably too high for individual purchase, but this is an interesting and stimulating book, which deserves a wide readership.

*School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences
University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)*

Penny A. Chaloner

Catalyst Design; Progress and Perspectives, edited by L.S. Hegedus. Wiley-Interscience, 1987, xi + 288 pages, £43.60, ISBN 0-471-85138-8

This book has its origins in two symposia on catalyst design at Annual Meetings of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Some of the participants subsequently met to prepare this volume. They are clearly an optimistic group in that they believe that method and reason may be brought to bear in a field which has, in the past, been largely characterised by luck and empiricism. A wide range of topics are addressed within the field of catalysis, reflecting the authors' varied backgrounds and interests.

The introductory chapter, written by the editor, points out the importance of catalysts and their design both in technological and economic terms. Chapter 2 by G.A. Somorjai discusses the building of catalysts from the point of view of a molecular surface science approach, considering mainly the structures of and reactions at metal surfaces. The third chapter, by B.E. Gates, will be of more interest to organometallic chemists, since it considers the molecular processes involved in reactions catalysed by supported metal complexes. Chapter 4 also details supported species, but these are mainly supported metals, more readily studied by the methods of physical chemistry rather than by investigation of molecular mechanism. In Chapter 5 by M. Boudart, the rôle of kinetic studies in catalyst design is reviewed, whilst Chapter 6, by W.O. Haag and N.Y. Chen, considers catalyst design involving zeolites. Mathematical models in catalyst design are considered by R. Aris in Chapter 7. The final section by J. Wei details an approach towards the design of hydrodemetallation catalysts for crude oil.

This is an attractively produced volume with few errors, good diagrams, and a reasonable index. The bibliography is useful and up to date (including 1986 references) but is presented in an irritating manner, being referenced only by author's name without numbers. As a chemist interested in catalysis by organometallics, I approached this book with interest and optimism and I must confess to some disappointment. It is a good book, reflecting many important areas of catalyst design, but it will be of much more interest to surface scientists and chemical technologists than to chemists interested in molecular process.

*School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences
University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)*

Penny A. Chaloner