

nodal characteristics, no wrong; nonbonding role; Olah's original method; peak area intensity; β -scission, undergo; stereoregularity dictates; three pairs of π -bonding electrons; very shallow activation energy barrier? Fortunately the content of each chapter is very clearly defined in the Contents pages.

There is an interesting Foreword (wrongly described as a Foreward) by W.N. Lipscomb.

This valuable addition to the literature is strongly recommended. It will be much consulted and often cited.

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

Colin Eaborn

Dictionary of Organometallic Compounds, Second Supplement. J.E. Macintyre (Ed.), Chapman and Hall, London, 1986, xiii + 626 pages, £135.00. ISBN 0-412-26330-0.

This second supplement to the very well received Dictionary of Organometallic compounds consists of new entries or additional material for previous entries largely derived from primary publications appearing in the year up to mid-1985. However there is also a substantial number of new entries for previously known compounds that were omitted from the initial volume but are included now as a result of second thoughts by the compilers or at the suggestion of readers. A very useful list of selected books and reviews dealing either with organometallic compounds in general or with specific elements is included.

For each element the compounds appear in an order determined by their formula (primarily on the numbers of carbon and hydrogen atoms). There is a Name Index (covering the main volume and the first as well as the present supplement) which occupies 73 packed pages, but this will, I suspect, be of limited use to readers because they will often not be aware of, or will be reluctant to take the trouble to work out, the systematic names of the compounds they are interested in. Much more use is the cumulative Molecular Formula index, which takes up 90 pages: for each entry the compound is named, and some authors who have not taken the trouble to determine the systematic names of their new compounds in their publications will find the task done for them here. There is also a 62 page Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number Index.

The volumes are primarily intended for those who wish to look up individual compounds, but to my mind their outstanding feature is that the clarity of the presentation makes it easy to run through every entry for an element in order to see what types of compound are available, and also when a specific compound one is interested in is not listed, to see whether any closely related compounds are shown.

This supplement will be greeted with enthusiasm by those organometallic and organic chemists who have consulted the earlier volumes. Those who do not have ready access to this Dictionary should make every effort to have it made available to them.

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

Colin Eaborn