

individual chapters when all achieve such a high standard, the chapter on thermodynamics by Lester Morss reveals remarkable insight, and the chapters by Tobin Marks will obviously hold especial interest for the organometallic chemist. So, what are the weaknesses of these volumes? To my mind, there are two — one minor, one major. The minor point refers to nomenclature. In the introductory chapter (despite Silva's clear statement of the problem in Chapter 13), the editors refer to unnilquadium as rutherfordium and unnilpentium as hahnium — they are fully aware that the nomenclature is sub judice, and it is uncomfortable to see their prejudice appearing in an otherwise superlative text. A more important criticism, however, is the quality of the subject index, upon which much of the value of a work such as this rests. It is both unreliable and cumbersome. To take an example, phthalocyaninato complexes of uranium might be looked up under phthalocyaninato complexes or uranium. Under uranium, we are referred to p. 383–384, under phthalocyaninato complexes to p. 1425, 1427 and 1457, with advice to see also under the names of individual elements. Given that both the subject and author indices occur at end of *each* volume, surely this space could have been more usefully employed in constructing a longer and more detailed subject index, and placing it only at end of Volume 2?

In conclusion, despite the flaws mentioned above, these volumes should be, de rigueur, in all libraries, whether academic, industrial or government controlled, and will become the standard reference work until the end of this century. The production, both of text and illustration, is first class, and the books are a pleasure to handle. Indeed, despite the inevitable high price of such prestigious volumes, I hope that at least a few copies will appear on private bookshelves.

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*Landolt–Börnstein Group II Volume 12b. Magnetic Properties of Coordination and Organometallic Transition Metal Compounds*, by E. König and G. König. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1984, xxxvii + 352 pages, DM 710, ISBN 3-540-13018-7.

This subvolume represents the fourth supplement to the original compilation (volume 2 in this series, published in 1966), and covers mainly the literature of 1973 and 1974. There are about 500 references, covering about 2500 compounds, tabulated in the clear, well-produced manner characteristic of this series. A short introduction covers the basic theory, with additional references to standard texts and theory of electron paramagnetic resonance of transition metal compounds (1973 and 1974).

All workers in this field will wish to have access to this volume and its predecessors. However, it is a pity that more recent data are not already available in this format, as has been achieved in the volume reviewed below.

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