

chemistry is defined by the ligand or by the nature of the reaction which is being considered. As is evident from the title of the book, main group elements are not considered. Other aspects which are excluded concern the *f*-block elements (because, allegedly, they “lack the variable oxidation states, . . . which are crucial to the reactivity of *d*-block transition metals”; researchers working, for example, on uranium would, undoubtedly, challenge this assertion) and transition metal clusters.

Chapter 1 is entitled ‘A Perspective’, and informs the reader about the structure of the book, but also has a useful brief historical section. Organometallic chemists will not necessarily agree with the chosen landmarks. For example, I find it strange that there is no mention of the work of Hieber. Additionally, it seems somewhat arbitrary to have selected 6 out of the 41 “historic landmarks” to deal with homogeneous hydrogenation, and yet have no entry on, say, hydroformylation; the first phosphine-stabilised transition metal hydrides, alkyls or alkenes or homoleptic alkyls.

With regard to balance, again there will be differences of opinion. For example, in the very long Chapter 3 which deals with organotransition-metal compounds according to ligand types, we find that phosphides (i.e., having $\overline{\text{PR}}_2$ as ligand) are dealt with in 6 pages, with 15 references, whereas amides (i.e., with $\overline{\text{NR}}_2$ as ligand) are dismissed in half a page with only a single reference, and that to the primary literature. Even alkyls are dealt with in only 6 pages.

There is no doubt that this book will be a major source book of organometallic chemistry for new practitioners of the subject. It is an authoritative work.

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

Michael F. Lappert

Announcement

Sixth International Conference on the Organometallic and Coordination Chemistry of Germanium, Tin and Lead

The above Conference will be held at the Free University of Brussels on July 23–28 1989. Details may be obtained from

Professor Dr. M. Gielen,
Free University of Brussels, V.U.B.,
AOSC Unit, 8G512, Pleinlaan 2,
B-1050, Brussels, Belgium.