

of named reactions from his text, it would not be inappropriate if the use of "Zuckerman" became general and widespread, and it is indeed likely.

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*Spectroscopic Properties of Inorganic and Organometallic Compounds, Volume 19,* edited G. Davidson and E.A.V. Ebsworth, Specialist Periodical Report, Royal Society of Chemistry, 1986, xiv + 474 pages, £95 (non-members), £50 (members), ISBN 0-85186-173-3.

In a review of a previous volume of this series, the reviewer commented rather unfavourably on the price of the book. It would seem that the editors took this criticism very much to heart, since in the foreword they "deeply regret that purchasers will have to pay so much for it". This is an extremely useful book and the price to members of the Royal Society of Chemistry is very reasonable in the context of modern book prices. Since the least expensive grade of membership costs only £31, I would warmly recommend prospective individual purchasers to join the Society and enjoy not only their savings on books but also many other benefits.

The organisation of this book involves the material being divided mainly according to the spectroscopic technique used, and the styles of the chapters vary widely. The first, and much the longest, deals with nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. This has clearly been a formidable task, with over 3000 literature references. The result is an extremely valuable survey, but definitely not a fireside book for the casual browser. The writers of the next two chapters on respectively nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy and rotational spectroscopy have produced more easily read accounts, but they have less material to consider.

Chapter 4 reviews characteristic vibrations of compounds of main-group elements, and is followed by an account of vibrational spectra of transition element compounds. Chapter 6 considers the vibrational spectra of some coordinated ligands. All these three chapters are organised according to periodic table groups, and provide not only valuable reference data but also many insights into the chemistry of the molecules under discussion. Chapter 7, dealing with Mössbauer spectroscopy, is also divided according to element, with the longest sections, predictably, on iron and tin. The final brief chapter details structures determined by electron diffraction techniques.

Most of the chapters of this book cover the literature from late 1984 until late 1985, and cover it very thoroughly. There is no index, but the chapter contents are very detailed and provide most, if not all of the guidance needed. The book has been produced in a camera-ready format, which means that some sections are more attractive than others in appearance (the prize for layout would definitely go to Chapter 3 by S. Cradock), but this has probably contributed to keeping costs low. This is an excellent addition to this series and deserves a place both in libraries and personal collections.

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