Tsutomu Inokuchi, considers the role of electrochemical methods in the transformation of β-lactam antibiotics and terpenoids. The electrochemical version of the palladium catalysed deprotection of allyl esters of penicillins will be of interest to organometallic chemists, as will the discussion of functionalisation of terpenoids with selenium reagents.

As always with this series, this volume is very well produced, with few typographic errors and clear diagrams. Whilst there is no subject index, each chapter has an extremely detailed contents list, so that material is easy to find. The author index for volumes 101–148 of the series is contained in this volume.

This continues to be a high quality, but unfortunately also high-priced, series. However, unlike some of the recent volume, this is a very well-focussed book, and electrochemists interested in organic synthesis will find something worth noting in each of the reviews. Organometallic chemistry is somewhat peripheral, and I would hope to see it playing a more central role in one of the future volumes on electrochemistry. Libraries should continue to subscribe to this series, and this volume should be considered for individual purchase by those working in this field.

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Penny A. Chaloner

Dictionary of Organometallic Compounds. Fourth Supplement; edited by J.E. Macintyre, Chapman and Hall, London and New York, xiii + 520 pages, £245.00, ISBN 0-412-28170-8.

The supplement to this well-regarded dictionary brings systematic literature coverage up to mid-1987, but much later material is also included. Many of the approximately 1500 entries are wholly new, but others provide additional information on compounds that appeared in earlier volumes, and in such cases the original entry is reprinted here along with the supplementary material. As usual there is a helpful list of relevant books and review articles that have appeared since the earlier volumes were published.

There is a molecular formula index and also an index of Chemical Abstracts Service registry numbers; both indexes cover entries in the earlier volumes as well as this one. One of the outstanding features of the presentation is that the chemical identity of each compound is clearly shown, often in a structural diagram, so that it is fairly easy to look through every entry under a given element to seek out compounds of special interest.

The volumes in this series are very well produced, and can be expected to stand up well to the heavy use they should receive in any organization concerned with organometallic chemistry.

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