

The book is well produced with clear text and diagrams but is not without a number of annoying errors; for example Table 9.5 (^{15}N chemical shifts) has a sub-heading "Cyano, azide, cyanate, isocyanate" but there is no cyanate information under the heading, the relative sensitivity for ^{29}Si is wrong in both Table 1.1 and in Appendix A (this error is also present in the first edition); and $[\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{CD}_3)_2]_3$ is neither drawn properly nor named correctly in Table 2.3.

The errors mentioned are minor considering the size and scope of the book and it will be the first volume that I consult when next wanting a clear explanation of an NMR technique.

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

Paul D. Lickiss

Annual Reports in Organic Synthesis-1987, edited Eric F.V. Scriven and Kenneth Turnbull, Academic Press, 1988, xiv + 473 pages, \$39.95, ISBN 0-12-040818-X.

This volume is the eighteenth in a series devoted to the abstraction of synthetic methodology from the current literature. In their preface the editors refer to the problems which the modern synthetic chemist faces in "keeping up with the literature". These are indeed formidable, as I have realised myself in writing an annual survey of synthetic methods. This volume contains well over 1300 abstracts, and the number of papers surveyed and referenced is substantially greater. They have certainly accomplished a Herculean task in terms of data retrieval alone, with abstracts drawn from 49 primary journals.

The material in the book is organised by reaction type, and although there is only an author and not a subject index, the contents listing is generous and will direct the reader to the required area. The first three sections are much the most extensive, being devoted respectively to carbon-carbon bond forming reactions, oxidations and reductions. Section IV considers the synthesis of heterocycles and is subdivided according to the type of heterocyclic ring under consideration, whilst Section V reviews protecting groups. Section VI has a slightly curious air, being entitled Useful Synthetic Preparations, and containing material which could not be conveniently fitted in elsewhere. It is subdivided by functional group. The final section is a collection of useful synthetic reviews.

In checking the comprehensive nature of a collection such as this, a reviewer is usually tempted to look for those of their own papers which they feel should have been included. In this respect the editors succeeded, or perhaps exceeded, since two of mine, both reviews, appeared twice! More seriously, I did find most of the items I looked for, and although I might take issue with the dumping of organometallics as diverse as organoboranes, organosilanes and organotitanium compounds under the heading of Grignard type carbanions, most information I sought was relatively easy to find.

The production of this volume has been speedy, and there is no doubt that elegant presentation has been sacrificed to this end. Neither the layout nor the figures are particularly attractive, and there are a number of minor typographic errors. However, this is probably inevitable, and the rate of movement in the field makes speedy publication especially desirable.

Organometallic chemistry plays a significant part in modern synthetic methodology and this is well reflected in the choice of papers which has been abstracted. Both stoichiometric and catalytic reactions feature strongly in all sections of the book. This is a useful volume as an individual item and the publishers are to be congratulated for keeping the price low; in terms of information content per unit cost this ranks very high. However, the really valuable facility is access to the entire series; the synthetic chemist needs to investigate the approaches to his particular problem over a number of years. The series is probably out of range of limited personal budgets, but all serious libraries should have a copy.

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

Penny A. Chaloner