

diagrams are of a high standard. There is no index, but each of the chapters does have a detailed contents list, so that material of interest is not difficult to find. By modern standards of volumes of reviews the price is relatively modest, and individuals working in the field of asymmetric synthesis should seriously consider buying a copy. The soft-cover format may present a problem for libraries, in which the book is likely to be heavily used, and they will probably have to consider strengthening the binding.

*School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences,  
University of Sussex, Brighton (U.K.)*

**Penny A. Chaloner**

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*Inorganic Syntheses*, Volume 25, Editor-in-Chief Harry R. Allcock, Wiley-Interscience, 1989, xxi + 300 pages, £31.40, ISBN 0-741-61874-8.

The purpose of the *Inorganic Syntheses* series is to provide reliable, and preferably foolproof, syntheses of inorganic compounds. That a research worker cannot reproduce these syntheses is rightly regarded as a serious indictment of their competence. Moreover, it is intended that the syntheses chosen for inclusion should be of general interest. This is a series which is bought generally by libraries, rather than individuals; it is likely that few individuals would find all the sections of the book of equal interest.

The first chapter deals with the preparation of main group ring systems and related compounds, mainly considering rings containing phosphorus, nitrogen and/or sulphur. The next section deals with inorganic polymer systems, usually with nitrogen phosphorus backbones. The growing importance of inorganic chemistry in pharmacology is highlighted in Chapter 3 with sections on boron analogues of amino acids, aziridinyl substituted cyclophosphazenes, and platinum pyridone blue.

Chapter 4 is the most general in the volume, and deals mainly with coordination compounds, and some main group organometallics. Whilst a few  $\sigma$ -aryl complexes of platinum are included here, it is chapter 5 which contains most of the syntheses of transition metal organometallic compounds. The range of compounds considered is extensive, including substituted iron carbonyls, cyclopentadienyl derivatives of cobalt and rhodium, phosphido bridged complexes, cyclopentadienyldiruthenium complexes, and mixed osmium clusters. The volume is completed by contributor and subject indexes for Volumes 21–25.

As always with this series, the volume is well-presented, and clearly referenced. There is the usual scrupulous attention to the details of the preparations which has so assisted all users, from novice graduate students to experienced research workers. All serious chemistry libraries should continue to purchase this important series.

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