Enzymatic and Model Carboxylation and Reduction Reactions for Carbon Dioxide Utilization; edited by M. Aresta and T.V. Schloss, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1990, 451 + xi pages, Dfl. 215, US $125. ISBN 0-7923-0871-9.

This book represents the proceedings of a NATO Advanced Study Institute held in Italy in June, 1989. It is clearly policy to publish these proceedings in book form. Often they are of dubious value. This is certainly good in parts, but one wonders what in general is achieved by this kind of book. The content varies between the trite and the sophisticated, between the informative and the conventional, but it does cover a considerable area of carbon dioxide chemistry.

The material ranges from theoretical studies of carbon dioxide organometallic reactivity (which are always provoking and useful even where the predictions turn out to be ill-founded) *via* organometallic and photochemistry to the biochemistry of carbon dioxide. This last constitutes the largest part of the book, and the contributions cover relatively well-worn topics such as carbonic anhydrase, and much broader ones such as photosynthesis. The book finishes with lists of short communications and of the participants in the Institute, together with their addresses.

Like so many of these books, this will repay some browsing. Whether it is much more than a record of an event which those present would like to possess is questionable. Some of the articles are considerable reviews which will be of value if they are accessible to a wider public. In my view, the editors could have rendered a greater service by producing a book of contributions of more even aim and coverage, for a general audience. As it is, an opportunity has been missed.

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