

transmetallation methods as applied to organic synthesis. The range of target molecules is wide covering indole alkaloids, steroids, prostaglandins, sesquiterpenoids and the anthracycline antitumour antibiotics.

This book is much more than a catalogue of syntheses. Each chapter needs to be read and pondered for it will then reveal further potential applications of organotransition metal chemistry in synthesis. The book is well produced and should make valuable reading for chemists wishing to apply organometallic and, in particular, organo-transition metal chemistry in synthesis.

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Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry, 8th Edition, Coordination Compounds of Manganese, Springer Verlag, Berlin, Volume D6, 1988, pp. 416 + xix, DM 1914. ISBN 3-540-93565-7. Volume D7, 1990, pp. 289 + xvi, DM 1335. ISBN 3-540-93602-5.

These volumes continue, but do not conclude, the coverage of the coordination chemistry of manganese begun with volume D1 which was published in 1979. Volume D6 covers the coordination chemistry with Schiff bases, hydrazones, carbazones, and related compounds with a literature closing date not earlier than 1986. Volume D7 deals with nitriles and ligands containing sulphur, selenium, and tellurium, with a literature closing date not earlier than 1987. One imagines the Gmelin staff pursuing this subject to an eventual conclusion, only to find that it is necessary to revise volume D1 once again. An endless treadmill is presented to these tireless reviewers. Once again, the presentation is superb, the treatment immensely detailed yet easily appreciated, and professional in the extreme. The volumes each contain a ligand formula index, and a detailed contents index. Thus the material is very accessible. As far as can be judged, it is comprehensive.

The cost of these volumes makes it unlikely that there will be many private purchasers, and certainly many libraries will think twice about spending so much.

The Gmelin Institute is, surely, providing a service which is invaluable but cannot be economic, even at these prices. One hopes that they may long continue.

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