

other metals, and none at all for using them to prepare organotransition metal compounds. On the other hand, a useful feature of both Volumes is the inclusion of procedures for preparing some of the substrates for the organometallic reactions.

The division of material between Volumes 1 and 2 is made on the basis of the hybridisation of the carbon atom to which the metal is formally bonded:  $sp^2$  and  $sp$  in Volume 1 and  $sp^3$  in Volume 2. However, the division is, perhaps inevitably, somewhat arbitrary: for example, metal enolates are regarded as involving  $sp^3$ -hybridised carbon and included in Volume 2, and the preparation of n-butyllithium will be found in Volume 1! On the other hand, most users will surely have access to both Volumes, and the layout and indexing make it easy to locate information.

Volume 2 contains a few typographical errors, but they are mostly trivial, and occasionally amusing – someone should write an account of the tragedy of the dying nitriles (p. 161, Note 1).

In summary, this book is highly recommended to readers of this Journal with an interest in the chemistry of organoalkali metal compounds, many of whom will find both Volumes indispensable. It will also be useful to many with an interest in other aspects of organometallic chemistry, for guidance in preparing organoalkali metal compounds to use in preparing derivatives of other metals.

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**Basil J. Wakefield**

#### Announcement

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## 1992 Gordon Research Conference on Organometallic Chemistry

The 1992 Gordon Research Conference on Organometallic Chemistry will be held at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, USA, during the period July 27–31, 1992.

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