the art and the recent significant developments. The book would also benefit from a clearer grouping of the chapters in terms of the topics to which they refer. Nevertheless, this is an interesting collection of articles with many examples that illustrate the development and application of catalysts in organic reactions.

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Leaving No Stone Unturned: Pathways in Organometallic Chemistry
F. Gordon A. Stone (*Profiles, Pathway, and Dreams: Autobiographies of Eminent Chemists*, Jeffrey I. Seeman, Series Editor) American Chemical Society, Washington, DC, 1993
ISBN 0-8412-1826-9

This book is one of a series of 22 volumes, published by the American Society, each being essentially a (scientific) autobiography of an eminent organic chemist. With few exceptions (Professors A.J. Birch, E. Havinga, E. Huisgen, R.U. Lemieux, T. Mukaiyama, K. Nakanishi, T. Nozoe and V. Prelog) the authors have either been citizens of the USA or work there.

The inclusion of Professor Gordon Stone among this list is, therefore, exceptional in two major respects. First that he is an inorganic chemist, and second that he worked in the UK until his formal retirement in 1990 from Bristol, when he joined Baylor University, Texas.

Readers of this journal will, of course, be well aware of the massive contributions which Professor Stone has made over the years, starting with his early career as a Ph.D. student with Professor Emeléus at Cambridge and postdoctoral work with Professor Burg at the University of Southern California. A very productive eight year period at Harvard was followed by a short interlude at Queen Mary College, leading to his extremely fruitful time (1963–1990) in Bristol.

Gordon started his research career in the area of boron chemistry, this was briefly continued at Harvard; but he rapidly changed his main emphasis to organometallic chemistry starting with cyclooctatetrene–iron complexes. He then expanded his work into a wider range of π-complex chemistry including allylmetal complexes, and made important contributions to fluorocarbon complexes of transition metals.

When Gordon arrived at Bristol as the foundation Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, the department was still housed in its old building, but by the late sixties the splendid present laboratories were ready for occupation. Gordon formed a close and continuing friendship with the young Edward Abel. Among the early appointments made in Bristol in the field of organometallic chemistry were those of Michael Green and Peter Timms.

Bristol under Stone became a centre of organometallic chemistry; other major members of the faculty have included Selby Knox, Judith Howard (now in Durham), Michael Bruce (now in Adelaide) John Spencer (now of Salford), Guy Orpen and John Jeffrey. There was a continuing stream of sabbatical visitors and postdoctoral fellows, many of the latter from Spain.

In the early years, at Bristol, Gordon continued to work in the areas which he had initiated at Harvard. He made particularly significant contributions to the chemistry of complexes of platinum, particularly those in oxidation state zero, including the homoleptic alkene complexes.

Another field in which Gordon has continued to be active is that of metallacarboranes and of metallacycles derived from carbenemetal or carbynemetal complexes.

The book provides not only a scientific autobiography, but places Stone's work in the context of some wider trends that have developed over the years in organometallic chemistry.

Gordon formed close personal relationships with many scientists, above all those that have worked with him. Numerous others, including this reviewer, have enjoyed his friendship and the hospitality provided by him and Judy Stone. These features are well brought out, not only in reminiscences, but also in many photographs.

Although the book primarily charts a scientific journey, Gordon pays generous, and much deserved, praise for the support he has received from his wife Judy, who has been a constant partner in all his activities, and who is also greatly cherished by so many chemists.

The book is exceedingly readable. Those that do so will warm to its author, not only for his contributions to chemistry, but for his personal and professional qualities. He was a major figure in British science, having been a Vice-President of the Royal Society, and a Davy Medalist. He was active in the affairs of the Royal Society of Chemistry, having been President of its Dalton Division. He was an important member or chairman of various UK national science committees.

Professor Stone has received many other honours including the Longstaff Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the distinction of being appointed CBE.

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