



tion by base. Although the carbanion might be hydrogen bonded by external deuteron (proton) donors in the medium, deuteron (proton) capture at sites distant from the cation of the ion pair would generate dissociated ions. Such a process is favorable only in solvents of high dielectric constant. Recapture by a new site of the proton (deuteron) originally abstracted to form the carbanion produces an ion pair when metal alkoxides serve as bases, and a neutral molecule when amines are used.

The intramolecular rearrangements of III to IV and of V to VI probably occur by migration of protons

(deuterons) as conjugate acids of the catalyst across the face of a  $\pi$ -cloud of electrons containing a negative charge. Migration from the front face of the  $\pi$ -cloud to the rear face by the migrating group would involve breakage of the hydrogen bond and at least partial dissociation of the ion pair, and is an unlikely process in those solvents which exhibit high intramolecularity. Therefore, these results imply that if suitable optically active analogs of III and V were submitted to conditions that gave high intramolecularity, the products would be of high optical purity. Thus asymmetric induction over several bond lengths is anticipated. The stereochemical experiments of Bergsen and Weidler<sup>2d,e</sup> and of Jacobs and Dankner<sup>7</sup> give force to this expectation, which is currently being tested.

(7) T. L. Jacobs and D. Dankner, *J. Org. Chem.*, **22**, 1424 (1957).

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Divalent Carbon.** By J. HINE, Professor of Chemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology. The Ronald Press Co., 15 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y. 1964. vii + 206 pp. 15 × 21 cm. Price, \$7.00.

Considering the volume of published material on the chemistry of methylenes, it is amazing that the publication of the first comprehensive and acceptable review in English appeared only after this field has enjoyed an immense popularity for more than a decade. It is fortunate that the first book entirely devoted to methylenes has been written by an author who has revitalized the interest in divalent carbon compounds through his pioneering studies on the mechanisms of haloform hydrolyses.

The book consists of eight chapters which proceed from a discussion of the physical and physical-organic chemistry of methylene itself to a treatment of the chemistry of a variety of methylene derivatives. Included in the latter are dihalomethylenes, alkoxy-, alkylthio-, and monohalomethylenes, double-bonded derivatives of divalent carbon, and miscellaneous other substituted methylenes. The last three chapters present a discussion of mechanisms of  $\alpha$ -eliminations, of pyrolytic and photolytic decompositions of diazo compounds, and of a number of other reactions which may proceed through the intermediacy of divalent carbon species. The 218 references are taken from the literature available to the author to mid-1962. This includes some material with publication dates of 1963. Throughout the book, Hine has avoided the term "carbene"; instead he seems to prefer the Chemical Abstracts system which names all divalent carbon compounds as derivatives of methylene.

In the authors own words, the emphasis of the book is on "mechanisms of reactions involving methylenes and the effect of structure on reactivity in these reactions." As a consequence of this guideline, many references of interest mainly to the synthetic chemist are dealt with rather briefly, or are omitted entirely. Undoubtedly other books on divalent carbon will be published soon, and since it is likely that synthetic aspects will be stressed in one or the other, this restriction cannot be considered a shortcoming. The real strength of this monograph lies in its attempt to develop a general and consistent framework into which the vast volume of experimental data may be fitted. In the discussion Hine does not shy away from giving his own interpretations of many experimental observations even if his conclusions are not the same as those of the original authors. Another enjoyable aspect is the large number of suggestions of experiments which should be done to solve remaining problems. Considering

the size of the book, most aspects of mechanistic methylene chemistry in solution have been covered adequately. A somewhat more detailed description of the vapor phase work might have added to the value of the book. The only severe criticism must be directed towards the publisher. A production time of 18 months cannot be tolerated when the subject of the monograph is in a state of dynamic development. As a result of this time lag, the most exciting recent developments in methylene chemistry, such as the information on ground-state properties of divalent carbon compounds obtainable from e.s.r. studies, are only mentioned in a few words.

In conclusion, Hine succeeded in writing a very useful and stimulating book. Acquisition can be highly recommended to any one interested in organic reaction mechanisms. It should be included in the reading list for organic graduate students. They will profit not only from being familiarized with divalent carbon chemistry, but, more important, they will be given an excellent view on the methods and techniques used to study short-lived reactive intermediates in general.

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**Electronic Spectra and Quantum Chemistry.** By C. SANDORFY, Professor of Chemistry, University of Montreal. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 1964. xiii + 385 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price, \$14.95.

This book was originally published in French in 1959 as "Les Spectres Electroniques en Chimie Theorique," and its German translation (1961) was previously reviewed in this journal (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **84**, 2656 (1962)). The present volume, as the author remarks in his preface, is a greatly augmented version of these previous editions.

After a short introduction on units, and a somewhat longer one on the basis of the variation and perturbation methods in quantum mechanics, there is a short chapter on energy calculations by the Hückel MO method, and another considerably longer one on the corresponding valence bond technique using "structures." The emphasis is on the presentation of complete detail of each treatment, so that not even the smallest arithmetic steps are passed over.