

umes, each volume attempting to give critical abstracts and discussions of all crystal structure research reported in a given year. The bibliography in "Crystal Structures" is excellent, but it would be even more useful if references were given, wherever possible, to the corresponding abstracts in "Structure Reports."

Wyckoff makes no attempt to discuss the significance of the structures he reports with regard to the principles determining the stabilities of different structure types, the factors determining the dimensions (interatomic distances, bond angles, etc.) occurring in different compounds, or relationships to the properties of the substances. These subjects have of course been dealt with by others, usually in very limited areas, and it is to be hoped and expected that "Crystal Structures," with the help of "Structure Reports" and "International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography," will serve as a good basis for further research and publication along these lines. It is the writer's opinion that the determination of crystal structures is worthwhile only as a step toward a better understanding of the principles of atomic and molecular interactions and the relationships between the composition and the properties of substances.

Maurice L. Huggins  
Stanford Research Institute  
Menlo Park, California 94025

**Advances in Organometallic Chemistry. Volume 1.** Edited by F. G. A. STONE, Professor in the Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Bristol University, and ROBERT WEST, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin. Academic Press Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York 3, N. Y. 1964. xi + 344 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price, \$11.00.

"Interdisciplinary" has been a popular adjective of late, and we might think of organometallic chemistry as the original interdisciplinary field of our science. For a long time it suffered as a stepchild because it seemed to belong neither here nor there, but quite suddenly (as the editors of the present volume point out) the discovery of entire classes of compounds which possess remarkable structures brought the subject into the foreground, and these compounds stimulated a new and more thorough look at the theoretical nature of carbon-metal bonds in general. At the same time, organometallic substances became important in more and more industrial processes, which is always a good omen for the development of any branch of science. Professors Stone and West now see organometallic chemistry as "a convergence of inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry where the respective disciplines can benefit by interaction with each other," and the present volume represents the first of an ambitious series of reviews in which they hope to cover all recent developments in the science of substances containing organic groups bonded to metals.

Volume 1 cannot embrace all of organometallic chemistry, of course, but presents six reviews of specialized but timely topics. The first of these is a review of diene-iron carbonyl complexes and related species by R. Pettit and G. F. Emerson of the University of Texas, in which they take up the structures and spectra of complexes of butadiene and many other dienes and trienes with the several iron carbonyls; compounds of the iron carbonyls with acetylenes are also included. The second contribution is concerned with reactions of organotin hydrides with organic compounds and is written by Henry Kuivila of the University of New Hampshire; it takes up the preparation and properties of organotin hydrides and then considers their additions to alkenes and alkynes and their reductions of aldehydes, ketones, halides, and related substances. The third contribution is on organic substituted cyclosilanes, by Henry Gilman and Gerald L. Schwebke of Iowa State University, and covers the preparation of a great variety of cyclic substances built upon Si-Si bonds, together with their reactions with metals, hydrogen, halides, and oxidizing agents. The fourth review is devoted to fluorocarbon derivatives of the metals and is written by P. M. Treichel (now at Wisconsin) and F. G. A. Stone. This field is developing very rapidly and the authors are hard put to cover all of the derivatives of the representative and transition metals in terms of their preparation, reactions, structures, and spectra, but they do it and do it extremely well. The fifth contribution, concerning conjugate addition of Grignard reagents to aromatic systems, by Reynold C. Fuson, will seem like classical organometallic chemistry applied to organic synthesis to many older readers, but with many a new twist. The sixth article, on infrared and Raman spectral studies of  $\pi$ -complexes formed between metals and  $C_nH_n$  rings, by Heinz Z. P. Fritz of the Inorganic

Institute of Munich, deals with the theory and techniques of such spectral studies and then summarizes the experimental results for three-, four-, five-, six-, seven-, and eight-membered rings associated with metal atoms. Each article is followed by 150 or so references, and the book also has a complete author and subject index of very respectable dimensions.

This book will be a revelation to those who have not kept up with organometallic chemistry, and a very real timesaver for those who try to keep abreast of the field. It shows purpose and judgment in the selection of articles, and it has enough uniformity of style and organization in the separate presentations to give it real continuity.

Some will object to the announcement of any new series entitled "Advances in Something or Other," seemingly adding to the burden of reading every chemist has to contend with these days. But if we ask ourselves what we would do *without* such books, we see that the "keeping abreast" effort would be quite hopeless. Since we must have reviews, let them be done tenderly, carefully, and expertly, as this one is.

Eugene G. Rochow  
Mallinckrodt Laboratory, Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Methods in Microanalysis. Volume I. Simultaneous Rapid Combustion.** Edited by J. A. KUCK, Senior Research Microanalyst, American Cyanamid Co. Gordon and Breach, 150 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 1964. 650 pp. 14.5 × 22.5 cm. Price, \$27.50.

The purpose of this book is to acquaint the English reader with the progress of quantitative organic microanalysis in Russia since World War II. This is done by presenting both the translation of the publications of Mirra Osipovna Korshun and her successors and several significant papers by other Russian or Czechoslovakian scientists which happened to fit into the general theme of the collection. It is very fortunate that one of the authors, Dr. Julius A. Kuck, is a microanalyst with many years of experience, and the reader can therefore be assured of the accuracy of the translations. In accomplishing their aim, Dr. Kuck and his associates have done an admirable service to those who read English but do not read Russian.

The selection of the articles translated is an obvious one, since Miss Korshun was not only the best known Russian microanalyst but also one of the world's most outstanding ones. Thirty-four of the included articles were either authored or coauthored by Miss Korshun (seven after her death), while the rest were written by well-known Russian or Czechoslovakian microanalysts. Not only is the book of value from a scientific standpoint but, as Dr. Kuck has pointed out in the preface, it shows the great value which Russian science places on research in this field and the thoroughness with which the Russians train their microanalysts in their leading university. This is in direct contrast to the growing idea which exists in America and parts of Europe that laboratory technicians, instead of graduate chemists, should perform the analyses.

In all, there are 56 articles which were originally published during the period from 1941 to 1961. Twenty-nine of them deal with simultaneous determinations of several elements in one weighed sample. Fifteen papers stress the so-called "rapid" combustion procedures in which the rates of flow of oxygen through the combustion train are between 25 and 50 ml./min. However, some of these procedures require 25 to 35 min. per combustion, and one paper states that eight to ten carbon-hydrogen determinations may be done in one working day!

The following determinations are included, either as single determinations or as simultaneous ones: carbon-hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, halogens (including fluorine), sulfur, phosphorus, mercury, boron, and silicon. Thirty-eight of the chapters deal directly with various phases of the carbon-hydrogen determination, and another one describes an electric heating element suitable for this determination as well as for several others. Automation, thermal conductivity, conductometric titration, errors, absorption of oxides of nitrogen, etc., are included. Ten chapters deal directly with the determination of nitrogen. The use of thermal conductivity as a means of measuring the end-product is included. Four of the articles are on the determination of oxygen, and one of them is on the advances in organic elemental analysis which was originally published in Russian in 1959.

This book will make a valuable addition to every microanalyst's library, and the authors are to be congratulated for their tremendous

undertaking. It is very unfortunate, however, that the printing is *extremely poor*. At least this was the case with the copy supplied to the reviewer. It is hoped that the bulk of the copies is in better shape.

Al Steyermark  
Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.  
Nutley 10, New Jersey

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