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PREFACE

Organosilicon chemistry has escaped from the hands of the specialist into general use, yet new reactions and new applications of silicon-containing reagents are still being invented at a prodigious rate. This Symposium-in-Print, the second on organosilicon chemistry in organic synthesis, following Hans Reich's of five years ago, celebrates its continuing vigour with thirty-nine papers over the whole range, from reactions of silicon hydrides to reactions of silicon bonded to transition metals. The papers are ordered approximately by the atomic number of the element attached to silicon, either in the starting material or the product. Perhaps most striking in attesting to the maturity of applied organosilicon chemistry is the complexity of the structures in which a silyl group can be found bonded to carbon in so many of the papers presented here. A silyl group is not only effective in controlling organic reactions in its neighbourhood, but it is evidently incorporated into polyfunctional molecules with an ease that was not evident ten years ago.

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