

Recensiones

Darwin W. Smith and Walter B. McRae, Eds.: Energy, Structure and Reactivity p. 422, London: John Wiley and Sons Ltd. 1973, Price £ 7.50.

This book contains the papers that were given at a Theoretical Chemistry Conference in the United States in 1972. Following each paper there are included questions and comments from those attending, together with the answer provided by the author. The attendance at the Conference was almost entirely American, but almost all the distinguished and successful contributors from that continent to this part of Theoretical Chemistry (Molecular Quantum Mechanics) were there. The papers are very interesting and, in many cases, provide the assessment of the author of the present situation in the particular area with which he was asked to deal. In addition, the discussions provide valuable additional illumination of the subjects. The separate sections of the Conference covered: 1. Scattering, 2. Theoretical Models for Chemistry, 3. Electron Correlation, 4. Density Matrices, 5. Many-body methods, 6. Atom-atom interactions, 7. Excited states, 8. Large molecules. It can be seen from this list that the coverage was very full. It is not appropriate in this review to select any particular section, but it is proper to say that the standard of contribution is very high, and that there is a large amount of stimulating materials in the volume. This means that most theoretical chemists would find it extremely valuable to have this book on their book-shelves. However, I am afraid that the cost of the book must make this rather unlikely. Readers will almost certainly have to depend on libraries but certainly any library which aims to provide reasonable coverage in this area should possess a copy. I believe that this will be true for the years to come as well as for the present. It seems a pity that the expense of the book should operate so strongly against its purchase by the private individual; perhaps a paper cover could have made it cheaper and more within the range of the private purchaser. Finally, it must be said again that the standard of the Conference was clearly very high. It was a pity that the attendance was not more international.

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Received April 5, 1974