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This first volume of the Specialist Periodical Reports on Organometallic Chemistry further extends the topics covered by this series. It reviews the synthesis, structure, and chemical and physical properties of those compounds containing carbon-to-metal bonds. In order to keep the text to a manageable size, the volume does not provide a complete coverage of every aspect of the chemistry of these compounds. Readers are referred to other Reports in the Chemical Society’s series such as: ‘Spectroscopic Properties of Inorganic and Organometallic Compounds’, Senior Reporter N. N. Greenwood; ‘Inorganic Chemistry of the Transition Elements’, Senior Reporter B. F. G. Johnson; and ‘Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms’, Senior Reporter J. Burgess.

The organo-derivatives of the main-group metals have been reviewed by element groups; however, the compounds of the transition metals have been surveyed according to ligand type. In this way it is hoped to maintain a flexibility of emphasis in this rapidly advancing field.

This first volume essentially covers the literature of organometallic chemistry for 1971, and cites about 2500 references. In a few cases, however, problems such as the United States docks strike prevented authors having access to some of the later 1971 literature. In these cases the Reporters will cover any relevant 1971 papers in the next volume, and will hence preserve continuity.

The Senior Reporters accept responsibility for the space allocated to the various sections. Each chapter is essentially self-contained. Occasionally the reader will find that certain results are mentioned in more than one chapter. However, we believe a certain amount of overlap between related subjects is not undesirable.

The Fifth International Conference on Organometallic Chemistry was held in Moscow on 16th—21st August 1971. Almost one thousand people attended the Conference; and two volumes of abstracts which run to a total of 1300 pages reflect current trends in organometallic chemistry. Organometallic chemistry was, moreover, one of the main topics at the 23rd International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry held in Boston (U.S.A.), 26th—30th July 1971. The lectures have been published (Volume 6 of the Proceedings, Butterworths, 1971).

E.W.A.
F.G.A.S.
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