

Book review

Boron Hydride Chemistry, edited by Earl L. Muetterties, Academic Press, New York, 1975, xii + 532 pages, \$49.50.

The aim of the book is to provide a critical perspective, emphasizing theory, principles, and systematics with the hope of enabling newcomers to quickly grasp the essentials of boron hydride chemistry and to perceive opportunities to apply these concepts and principles to other branches of chemistry. Indeed, this aim appears to pervade the majority of the twelve chapters.

The first chapter sets a good perspective for the entire book by elaborating on bonding, structure, and stereochemistry. However, at this juncture the reader should note the introduction of a perhaps confusing classification, the class of quasi-*closo* boranes. All of the molecules in the quasi-*closo* class belong to the *nido* class when electrons and polyhedral vertices are accounted for as outlined in subsequent chapters and in the original literature.

In general, the coverage of each chapter is fairly comprehensive, critical, and reasonably up-to-date (the literature is quite well covered through 1972 with some chapters containing several references into 1974). The reader should be able to gain a good comprehension of any subfield by reading the chapters pertaining to it. For instance, experimental spectra are sometimes illustrated as are most polyhedral structures. There are even pictures of an olla, zapato, and canasta to clarify nomenclature!

The book will be invaluable to chemists who desire to learn boron hydride chemistry.

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