

The first part of the book, Chapters 1–6, deals with the methods of X-ray crystal structure analysis: X-ray diffraction, symmetry, structure solution, refinement, treatment of results, and experimental aspects. The coverage in general is selective but good. The chemist may find some of the matrix notation in Chapters 4 and 5 rather heavy going, but the sections on anomalous dispersion and direct methods in Chapter 3 should prove particularly useful.

Chapters 7 (*Crystal Structure and Chemistry*) and 8 (*Electron Density Distributions in Molecules*) should prove to be the most interesting and instructive for the chemical reader. Chapter 7 contains some beautifully illustrative examples of how the results of crystal structure analyses can contribute to the solution of problems of chemical interest, including studies of chemical reaction pathways. The topics in Chapters 9 and 10 (cyclic molecules and conformational maps) are rather too specialized for the general reader.

The book is well produced, and relatively free from printing errors. It does not really succeed in its effort to be a comprehensive guide, but it will certainly be well worth the chemical reader sampling those parts which particularly interest him.

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Book Received

The following book has been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.

The molecular physics of liquid crystals. Edited by G. R. LUCKHURST and G. W. GRAY. Pp. xii + 494. London: Academic Press, 1979. Price £20.00, US\$46.00. A review of this book, by G. H. Brown, has been published in the January issue of *Acta Crystallographica*, Section A, pages 139–140.