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Book Review

Dictionary of chemical technology (in five languages: English, German, French, Polish, Russian), edited by D. Kryt, Elsevier, Amsterdam, Oxford, New York, 1980, XII + 601 pp., price Dfl. 195.00, US\$ 95.00, ISBN 0-444-99788-1.

This dictionary was compiled by an outstanding team of Polish scientists, among them also several renowned chromatographers. It lists in alphabetical order 3805 English terms, each with a short definition followed by the German, French, Polish and Russian equivalents. As the book will be mainly used by Polish and Russian scientists, we have paid attention more to the Western languages.

Some of the German terms seem to be pure invention, for example, ion exchange capacity = Salzspaltkapazität and ion exclusion = Elektrolytvorlaufverfahren. They remind me of an English tourist who once bumped into me and said "Ich bin betrübt", *i.e.*, he translated literally "I am sorry".

Some French terms are equally wonderful, for example, R_M value = symbole R_M (why not "valeur de R_M "?) and R_f value = coefficient R_f (why not "valeur de R_f "?).

For some terms, such as No. 3112, "Sawhorse formula", the dictionary leaves all languages blank and gives only a Polish equivalent. One wonders why? I could not find "gel filtration" or "size exclusion chromatography" at all. Term No. 2465 is called "Openauer oxidation" in English and "Oppenauer-Oxydation" in German. Did the gentleman change his name when emigrating? Or is it a printer's error?

Like most dictionaries it irritates one by not listing the term one really needs but abounds in terms which are the same in most languages, such as "eluate", "isobar" and "isomer".

Lausanne (Switzerland)

M. JANOVSKY