

### Book reviews

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*Dictionary of Chemistry and Chemical Technology German—English*; edited by H. Gross (Department of Applied Linguistics, Technische Universität Dresden, G.D.R.) Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1984, 633 pages, \$105.75, Dfl. 275.00, ISBN 0-444-99617-6. (In the U.S.A./Canada available from Elsevier Science Publishers Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163)

The English—German volume of this work was reviewed earlier (*J. Organomet. Chem.*, 284 (1985) C49). Since the German—English volume was compiled from the same database, the two versions are very similar in approach and content though the German—English is the better printed. The most striking and useful feature of these books is their extensive coverage: there are 56 000 entries in the present volume including many highly specialised terms and much jargon from both chemistry and chemical technology (dye-stuffs, agriculture and forestry, geochemistry, mining and metallurgy, glass and ceramic technology, cosmetics, plastics, textiles and pharmaceuticals). As in the previous volume I was able to find translations and sometimes definitions of almost all the specialist words that I looked up. Though I found some places where the word processing had gone adrift, these were few and far between. The wide coverage makes the book an excellent acquisition for a science library or for someone working in information or translation services.

Whether the book is a good investment for an individual scientist or student with rudimentary knowledge of German is another question. The technical terms required to translate a paragraph of German would all be here but another dictionary would be required for the verbs, adverbs and prepositions from the everyday language. These would have to be understood before the meaning of the paragraph could be grasped. For an individual wide coverage is often not important.

For some words simple definitions are added to the English equivalent e.g. Hydroborierung *f* hydroboration (addition of diborane to olefins), Metallierung *f* metalation (attachment of a metal atom to a carbon atom of an organic molecule), Direktsynthese *f* direct synthesis (as for obtaining chlorosilanes). More importantly, IUPAC names are given for many compounds with trivial or commercial names. This is of special value since most research chemists have at some time to consult German technical literature dating from before the time when international uniformity of nomenclature was considered important.