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Book reviews

Dictionary of Chemistry and Chemical Technology: English German; edited by H. Gross (Department of Applied Linguistics Technische Universität Dresden GDR), Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1984, 716 pp., \$105.75, ISBN 0-444-99618-4. (In the U.S.A./Canada available from Elsevier Science Publishers Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1063, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163).

A team of scientists from the Technical University of Dresden has compiled about 55000 entries giving German equivalents for English technical terms in chemistry and related fields such as mining and metallurgy, dyestuffs, agriculture and forestry, geochemistry, glass and ceramic technology, cosmetics, plastics, textiles, pharmaceuticals and medicine. A short appendix draws attention to some of the ways in which IUPAC nomenclature differs from that in the older German literature. For many words there are numerous entries corresponding to the various compound words in German. There are also a number of concise definitions where the meaning is not otherwise clear. The care taken in providing these definitions is illustrated by the entry: 'organometallic compound: metallhaltige organische Verbindung f, (meist) metallorganische (organometallische) Verbindung f, Organometallverbindung f (mit direkter Metall—kohlenstoff-Bindung)'. The book is clearly intended mainly for native German speakers who have to read and translate English technical literature, but it is also of some interest to English speakers since entries under trivial names of organic compounds and minerals give the corresponding chemical names and formulae.

I lack the expertise to check the coverage of technical terms in most of the industrial fields dealt with in this book, but for those parts of the chemical and metallurgical industries where I have some knowledge, I found almost all the specialist words that I could think of.

For the worker in organometallic chemistry, however, the range of entries is somewhat restricted. The common manipulations referred to in experimental sections of papers are well covered, as are crystallographic terms. 'Air-sensitive' is in but 'air-stable' is not. NMR is induced but not 'chemical shift', 'coupling constant' and 'receptivity'. 'Hydroboration' is defined but not 'hydrosil(yl)ation', 'carbametallation' or 'transmetalation'. There are no entries for 'oxidative addition', 'reductive-elimination', 'homoleptic', 'isolobal', 'ambidentate', 'hapticity', or 'regioselectivity'. 'Flammable' and 'inflammable' which, confusingly, have identical meanings in English, are correctly translated identically, but there is surely a distinction between 'Stereospezifizität' and 'Stereoselektivität': both are given as equivalents for 'stereospecificity'.

Considering the range which is covered, however, these are minor quibbles. This should be a useful book for many chemists and technologists.

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