

Book review

Dictionary of Chemistry and Chemical Technology: English–German, edited by H. Gross (Department of Applied Linguistics, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany), Elsevier, Amsterdam, Fourth Edition, 1989, 752 pages, \$146.50, Dfl 300.00. ISBN 0-444-98863-7.

The first edition of this dictionary was published in 1984 (See *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 284 (1985) C49). Second and third editions followed quickly and we now have the fourth “heavily revised” edition. This contains 12,500 new entries, but some entries from earlier editions have been pruned so that there is a net increase of 6,000 entries compared with the first edition.

As before, chemistry is defined very broadly to include biochemistry, colloid and polymer chemistry, geochemistry, mineralogy and crystallography. Chemical technology covers industrial processes associated with petroleum and coal, pulp and paper, plastics and coatings, food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, pesticides, materials and ceramics, mining and metallurgy, and wastewater treatment. For each entry there are one or more German equivalents for the English and in some cases concise explanations are given, e.g. direkte Synthese (zB zur Herstellung von Chlorsilanen), Wurtz–Fittig Synthese (zur Darstellung von alkylierten Aromaten), or Ferrit (1. Eisen–Kohlenstoff-Mischkristall im α - und δ -Bereich. 2. keramischer Magnetwerkstoff aus Fe_2O_3 und anderen Metalloxiden). Since English is so widely used in technical literature, the importance of specialist dictionaries of this kind is self-evident and libraries which did not obtain the first edition now have the chance to buy an updated version.

Selection of entries for such compilations is notoriously difficult since few editors have the breadth of knowledge to satisfy specialists in every field. As a whole the coverage looks impressive but a particular working scientist has to judge the work by random sampling. Several terms commonly used in the *Journal of Organometallics Chemistry* were not included in the first edition and are still missing here: examples are hydrosilylation, homoleptic, isolobal, ambidentate, hapticity, agostic, regioselective, CVD, MOVPE. Coverage of NMR terms is good however: chemical shift, coupling constant, magic angle, NOE, population inversion (des Energieniveaus von Atomen) are all there. There seem to be some gaps in environmental chemistry: ozone layer is included but not greenhouse effect (gas) or acid rain. PCB is there, but not CFC.

In the past, dictionaries have been written specifically to influence the development of language and to prescribe spelling. The editors of this one indicate that they have tried to reflect current usage rather than lay down any correct version. This shows in spelling and nomenclature where several names for a compound or process are currently in use. It also shows in more subtle ways, which illustrate the difference between international and native English. For example, there are entries for “light sensitive” and “sensitive to light” (lichtempfindlich) and “oxidation

sensitive” and “sensitive to oxidation” (oxydationsempfindlich). The two English translations of “lichtempfindlich” would be widely used by native English speakers but at present these would render “oxydationsempfindlich” “sensitive to(wards) oxidation” rather than “oxidation sensitive”. There is of course no logic in this. Are the editors, by including both “oxidation sensitive” and “sensitive to oxidation” anticipating developments in usage? Will the international scientific community give us a more consistent English than that used by native speakers? We do not know. We do however know that many new scientific terms are introduced each year so there will be need for further editions of this useful book.

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Erratum

Re: Syntheses and reactivity of *p*-substituted benzonitrile complexes derived from dicyclopentadienyl-molybdenum and -tungsten. Oxidative electrochemistry. The crystal structure of $[\text{Mo}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2(\text{SC}_6\text{H}_5)(p\text{-(CH}_3)_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CN})][\text{PF}_6]$; by M.A.A.F. de C.T. Carrondo, A.R. Dias, M. Helena Garcia, Pedro M. Matias, M. Paula Robalo, M.L.H. Green, J. Higgins and Y.Y. Yang (*J. Organomet. Chem.*, 395 (1990) 279–292)

In Table 5, reference numbers in the last column should be amended as follows: 13 replaced by 9, 14 by 10, 15 by 11, 16 by 12, 17 by 13, 18 by 14, 19 by 15, 20 by 16, and 21 by 17. In the footnote to Table 5, [12] should be replaced by [8].