

fied by: '2,6-dichloro-4-nitroaniline, $C_6H_4Cl_2N_2O_2$, a yellow solid that is soluble in alcohol and melts at $191^\circ C$ '. However, there are errors even in many of these, especially where structural formulae are displayed.

It is possible that the standard is higher in fields other than chemistry, but in many cases in which I felt competent to judge the definitions appeared to be either faulty, uninformative, or pointless. Some of the illustrations could be of value; for example, someone who wished to know what a rhinoceros looks like would be helped by the drawing of the animal. However, many others are remarkably uninformative; see, for example, those of a dive bomber (shown in level flight), an atomic clock, a diffusion pump, a ramjet engine, and a hurricane. Yet others are incorrectly labelled; thus the drawing said to be of ragweed is actually of ragweed pollen.

Academic Press should be ashamed of this publication, and would be well advised to withdraw it. It has a certain entertainment value, since many hours can be spent searching through the 124,000 entries for the most incorrect, unhelpful, or absurd definitions and showing them to one's colleagues, but it is rather costly to buy for that purpose alone.

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Advanced Organic Chemistry

J. March, Wiley, New York, 4th Edn., 1992, xv + 1495 pages. £24.50 (soft cover; hard cover £45.50). ISBN 0-471-601802

This book has, deservedly, been so well known and so highly regarded for so long that a detailed outline of its contents is unnecessary. It is important to note, however, that although the organization remains unchanged, this edition is substantially updated, as illustrated by the fact that of the *ca.* 15,000 references it contains, some 5000 appear in it for the first time, and there are 149 additional pages. The mechanism and scope of about 580 reactions are surveyed, arranged systematically in terms of reaction type and the identities of the bonds formed and broken. As the author states, it is intended primarily to serve as a text book, but it is also extremely valuable as a reference work.

Readers will be very grateful to Professor March for continuing with his giant task, and congratulate him for maintaining the quality of his effort. This new edition can be recommended unreservedly, and the soft cover version in particular represents wonderful value for money.

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