

Concise Encyclopedia Chemistry

H.-D. Jakubke and H. Jeschkest (eds.), de Gruyter, Berlin and New York, 1993, 1201 pages. DM128.00
US\$69.95
ISBN 3-11-011451-8

This volume is a translated and revised version of one that appeared in the German language in 1988. The translation, by Mary Eagleson, is of unusually high quality, and entries are clear, concise, and grammatical.

There are ca. 12,000 entries, spanning general, inorganic, organic, physical and technical chemistry, and chemical engineering; there are 1600 figures and 300 tables. Very impressively, IUPAC nomenclature is used throughout and the entry under Nomenclature gives a concise summary of the conventions.

Although the choice of entries is necessarily somewhat arbitrary (I was disappointed to find no entry

under 'syngas') it seems to me that it is as good as could be expected. Furthermore, although no doubt individuals will find some particular entries not to their liking, I have noticed none that could be seriously faulted. The entries are of far superior quality to those concerned with chemistry in the Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology that I reviewed last year in this journal (452 (1993) C11).

The volume represents excellent value at its price and can be thoroughly recommended. I have already found it of significant help in my work as an editor, and I am very pleased to have it at hand.

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