

BOOK REVIEWS

ÍNDICE ALFABÉTICO PARA EL DICCIONARIO MINERO (ESPAÑOL, FRANCÉS, ALEMÁN Y RUSO), by ALEJANDRO NOVITZKY. 217 pp. quarto, Buenos Aires, 1958 (Price, \$12.00; can be ordered from El Ateneo, Florida 340, Buenos Aires, Argentina, or Librería del Colegio, Alsina y Bolivar, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

When the pentalingual dictionary of which this is the index appeared in 1951 most of the reviews pointed out that for the dictionary to be generally useful such an index should be prepared. Professor Novitzky has taken these suggestions to heart and has now completed the extremely tedious and laborious task of alphabetizing the 18,000 terms originally chosen, in each of the four other languages.

The dictionary, which is still available from the sources indicated above for the index, has terms in mining, metallurgy, geology, mineralogy, petrography, and petroleum technology. Alphabetization is in English only. (For details see the review, *Am. Mineral.*, **36**, 791, 1951.)

The index has all of the terms alphabetized separately in Spanish, French, German and Russian. It is thus possible to go from any one of the five languages to any other. This means that the dictionary and index taken together are the equivalent of twenty "one-way" dictionaries (e.g., "English-Russian Geological Dictionary").

In arrangement and use these books follow the plan of other polylingual technical dictionaries-indices. To look up a word in a language other than English it is necessary to use both volumes. The word sought is found in the index, and a page-and-word reference locates the word in the dictionary. For example, to find the meaning of the German word "Schuppen" we look it up in the index and find the reference "45, 29." On page 45 the 29th word in the English column is "cabin" which is the English equivalent of the word sought. The equivalents in Spanish, French and Russian are given on the same line of the same page.

It is unfortunate that the words on each page in the dictionary are not numbered, so it is necessary to count from the top down to the word required. The reviewer finds that it does not take much longer to write the numbers of the words than just to count them (a whole column can be numbered in a little more than a minute), so if a user of the set will write in the numbers opposite the English words on a page each time he looks up a word he can have the words numbered for future use with very little extra expenditure of time.

These books should prove most useful to anyone who is interested in reading literature in the earth sciences in two or more languages other than his native tongue. They contain many terms that are not found in more general technical dictionaries and many that are not found in individual specialistic glossaries. Even when one is translating primarily from a single foreign language the Dictionary and Index can be a valuable accessory to the dictionaries and glossaries already in use.

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CONCISE INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF MECHANICS AND GEOLOGY.
English-French-German-Spanish. S. A. Cooper Philosophical Library, Inc., New York.
400 pp. \$6.00.

This small dictionary has an English section of 199 pages, with equivalents given sequentially in French, German, and Spanish, and three subsequent indexes in French, German, and Spanish. Every page in the English section has its words or phrase entries

numbered from top to bottom, and the alphabetical listings in the foreign indexes are referred to the appropriate page and entry number.

The compiler states in his preface, "The contents are mainly based on GENERAL MACHINE PARTS and MECHANICAL terms. It was thought advisable, however, to add varieties of COAL, IRON and STEEL, and this led naturally to the inclusion of a wide selection of ALLOYS, MINERALS and GEOLOGICAL expressions." The reviewer fails to see what is necessarily natural about such a sequence, but agrees that the selection of geological terms may have been wide but hardly broad. A quick inspection reveals the lack of inclusion of: dike, sill, strike, plunge, and igneous. Yet such rare mineral species or varietal names as jaipurite, chalcostibnite (sic), and argentic mica are included. Listed too are numerous botanical terms, especially names of trees (broad-leaved lime tree, British oak). What are these doing in a dictionary of mechanics and geology? Furthermore numerous chemical terms also have been thrown in—Chloride of potassium, carbonate of zinc, etc., and who needs a dictionary to translate them from French, German or Spanish to English?

All in all, the dictionary is neither fish nor fowl nor good red herring type, but kitchen sink type and a spotty one at that. It may be a concise dictionary of mechanics but it is sneaky to call it any kind of a dictionary of geology.

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