The latest developments. A look at reviews and information about events will be included. Contributions will be in any of the Community languages, with abstracts in English, French, German, and Italian. This first issue features an article by Ben Patterson, MEP, on "Multilingualism in the European Community." The author admits the magnitude of the problems pertaining to maintaining, without linguistic prejudice, a multilingual regime, and the cost of solutions and inevitable compromises. Advances in computational linguistics are hailed as a potentially valuable ally.

Loll Rolling writes on the EEC's plans for improving inter-lingual information-transfer. Dieter vonch discusses the problems of mutual access to specialized information between EEC memberstates, with specific reference to DIANE (Direct Information Access Network for Europe) which provides access to 300 databases. M. King and S. Perschke present EUROTRA, projected EEC machine translation system with a rundown of aims and objectives.

D. Seleskovitch outlines a theory of meaning employed in the training of translators and interpreters at the University of Paris111: "that the meaningful units of utterances transcend the linguistic value of signs, but can be understood and expressed in their entirety in another language." J.Coveney reviews the training of translators and interpreters currently offered in the United Kingdom.

The first issue of MULTILINGUA includes, in addition, notes on lexicography, terminology, machine translation, and current research. MULTILINGUA should be hailed with alacrity by all with an interest in the multilingual society and its problems; if it continues to live up to its aims, it will, as its editor claims, fill a gap between quasi-contiguous fields—informatics and telematics, and natural language acquisition and performance. It is just this kind of gap which, if allowed to develop, leads in the long run to misunderstandings, breakdowns in communication and schism. The mutual distrust and not-always-latent hostility which characterize linguist/applied linguist and computer expert/translator relationships, is a case in point.

For this reason alone MULTILINGUA deserves a place in any multilingual context.

ENGLISH IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Lehrmaterial für die Sprachkundigenausbildung
Stufe IIa.
Price M 12.50
VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie Leipzig
DDR 700 Leipzig
Authors: Dr. Sc Phil. Manfred Gerbert
Oberlehrer Jochen Ebermann
Wolf-Rüdiger Köhler
Dr. Sc. Phil. Peter Zimmermann
Consultant: John Gough, M.A. (Oxon), University of Leicester.

This book addresses itself to the critical adult learner of German mother tongue, already an expert in his or her own subject field, who requires an intensive course comprising challenging, relevant material, in order to activate the use of general English, and to develop a feel for the way in which English is used in writing about science and technology. The texts are well-chosen in the main, and graded with welcome
recognition of the fact that the relative sophistication of a text lies not in lexis alone, but in collocation, lexical density and syntactic complexity. Every effort has been made to ensure a rich and varied diet for the adult learner, with teaching strategies emphasizing the notional approach - there is a helpful Functional-Notional Index, in addition to the Table of Contents. The mini-dialogues, interviews, rôle play and comprehension texts, which successfully tread the narrow line between the excessively field-specific and the vapidly general, could be used by those other EST-students who could accept the strong GDR-orientation concerning such subjects as Vietnam and the space race - plus the legitimate problem of translation passages from the German.

As far as providing EST-training for professionals goes, the book comes through with flying colours. Useful vocabulary items and structures are well contextualized in collocation, speech-act situational context and co-text.

The authors' attempts to sprinkle the mixture with humour, and to stimulate idiomatic fluency, are less successful. Idiom, like humour, is a capricious quarry, difficult to capture. Firstly, models contain one or two oddities: syntactic, such as: "Incredible speed they managed to get the whole thing up!" ("Use this sentence to express surprise"). Semantic, such as:

p. 172 "Bullfighters are experienced killers, using unequal means".

Lexical - in respect of connotative meaning
p. 211 "An Oriental beauty sidled by"

One questions the value of a structured language drill designed to elicit the ejaculation "Ugh", and also of a methodology which permits the expression "Dutch Courage?" (p. 67) to pass without a note of explanation; lacking familiarity with the idiom, the irony of the headline, which points up the semantic content of the text, is lost.

Secondly, one wonders how a female nuclear scientist, studying EST with this book, will react to the petrified sexist attitudes it reflects, curiously incompatible with the much-vaunted socialist notions of equality: (p. 15), "A few words on heads/chiefs/bosses" - includes not a single token feminine pronoun.... p. 64: "Just like a woman, typhoon Gloria changed her mind...". On p. 15, students are asked to consider whether a boss could reform "his" recalcitrant secretary by seeing her parents, buying her a box of chocolates on her birthday, taking (sic!) her to the cinema or a restaurant "if she is beautiful!".

Symptomatic is the dialogue on p. 14:
A: The time will come when there'll be women even in space, no doubt!
B: (protest-stimulus) .... already.
A: That's right! I nearly forgot about her!

This source of constant petty irritation at the socio-cultural level could constitute a potential impediment to learning. It is a blemish which the authors should eradicate in later editions, because English in Science and Technology, so long as it adheres to its professed sphere of interest, is a most useful coursebook.

JENNIFER DRASKAU