In a book on Finite Mathematics the author gets so carried away in treating like terms that he ends up saying that if you multiply two like terms you would get a like term. (This is essentially saying that (5a)(2a) = 10a)!

The relevant data about the book is given below.

Author(s): S.J. Farlow

<u>Title</u>: Finite Mathematics and its Applications

Edition: Second

Date: 1994

<u>Publisher(s)</u>: McGraw-Hill

Offending Page(s): # 9 (page nine)

A brief description of the error(s): Three lines above Example 2 (page 9) the author says,

"A similar rule holds for the multiplication of like terms, as illustrated by

 $(3xy^2)(5xy^2) = (3.5)(xy^2) = 15xy^2$ ". This is not a typographic error because in

Example 2 part (e) the author repeats it.

(Note: I did write to the publishers about the error, (in 1998 when I taught from the book) but never got a response. I hope that they made sure that if there was another edition this error would be corrected. If not then I hope that they would now.)