

Book Review

Handbook on Toxicity of Inorganic Compounds.

Editors H. G. Seiler and H. Sigel with A. Sigel, Marcel Dekker, New York/Basel, 1987, pp. 1067. ISBN 0-8247-7727-1. Price US\$234.— (2nd printing).

All those who already appreciate the series of *Metal Ions in Biological Systems*, edited by H. Sigel, have now a further reason to be indebted to the Professor of Inorganic Chemistry of the University of Basel for providing the scientific community with a fundamental book on toxicological aspects of inorganic compounds.

The *Handbook on Toxicity of Inorganic Compounds* edited by H. G. Seiler and H. Sigel with A. Sigel, represents a systematic source of information about distribution and production, metabolism, physiology, detoxification procedures, levels of tolerance and analytical aspects of 103 elements and their most commonly used complexes. This makes the book extremely interesting to those involved in scientific research on the above mentioned topics and also to those, like physicians, who often have to diagnose professional illnesses in workers dealing with inorganic substances.

The most expert scientists in the field of the effects of metal ions on living systems have contributed to the handbook. In addition to the chapters specifically devoted to the single elements, the book also contains review contributions on topics like *Bioinorganic Chemistry of Toxicity*, *General Aspects of Toxicology*, and *Radiotoxicity* which present general concepts which should be known by all chemists and biologists.

A copy of this handbook should in future be present in all inorganic and analytical laboratories because every researcher should be aware of the effects on his health of the substances he uses and on the ecotoxicological aspects related to the production and release into the environment of such substances.

Finally this book, with its updated bibliography, clearly indicates how a much deeper interaction between chemists, biochemists and pharmacologists is needed in the future in order to eliminate the many gaps in our knowledge today on the mechanisms of action, transportation and accumulation of toxic substances.

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