

BOOK REVIEW

1. ARUN S. MAJUMDAR (Editor) **Drying '80. Volume 1: Developments in Drying**. Hemisphere/McGraw-Hill, 1980, 518 pp. \$62.00.
2. ARUN S. MAJUMDAR (Editor) **Advances in Drying. Volume 1**. Hemisphere/McGraw-Hill, 1980, 301 pp. \$55.00.
3. ARUN S. MAJUMDAR (Editor) **Drying '80. Volume 2: Proceedings of the Second International Symposium**, Hemisphere/McGraw-Hill, 1980, \$58.00.

THE READER'S first reaction upon examination of these three substantial books must be one of some confusion. Clearly, they are related in some way and must form part of a planned series, but although they share a common editor their relationship, origin and purpose is not made entirely clear. In an attempt to explain his interpretation of these matters the present writer will refer to them as Books 1, 2 and 3.

In August 1978, a First International Symposium on Drying was held in Montreal and some of the papers presented were printed in the Proceedings of that Symposium, though it appears that the majority were not. Books 1 and 2 contain most, but not all, of the papers that did *not* appear in the Symposium Proceedings. Those appearing in Book 2 are all special 'Keynote' addresses, while those in Book 1 are mainly ordinary papers (although at least one Keynote address appears in Book 1 and not in Book 2). Some papers which are listed as having been given at the Symposium do not seem to have been printed in either Book 1 or Book 2 nor in the Symposium Proceedings. On the other hand, a few of the papers in Books 1 and 2 do not appear to have been given at the Symposium at all!

In his Preface to Book 1, the Editor expresses his thanks "for the time and effort contributed by the many authors to make this collection of papers a worthwhile addition to the existing literature" but does not mention that most of the papers were prepared for an earlier occasion. Thus the reader might come to believe that the papers had been written specially for Book 1 rather than constituting mainly a subset of the 1978 Symposium papers as seems actually to be the case. In the Preface to Book 2, it is stated that a majority of the chapters are based on Keynote addresses from the 1978 Symposium but we are not told which. In fact, it appears that all the chapters except one come from that Symposium. There is nothing wrong in this but we ought to be told.

No (or at any rate little) such bewilderment is generated by Book 3 since its cover is boldly sub-titled *Proceedings of the Second International Symposium* and we are told in the first sentence of the Editor's Preface that the book "consists of selected papers" from that Symposium, held in July 1980, so the reader has a good idea of the type of book that he has in front of him.

These are not trivial matters. We are confronted with an exponential expansion of available technical information and it is the first duty of the presenter of any item, be he author of a single individual paper or an editor of a whole series of volumes, to make the terms of his offering as clear as he can. The present books are the first in two series, one (or at least its initial volume) entitled *Developments in ...* and the other *Advances in ...*. Does "developments" mean something different from "advances" and if so what? Interestingly, one of the contributors to Book 2 touches on this matter in his introduction which he opens with the statement: "A common opinion about what a contribution to a series 'Advances in X' should be like does not seem to exist". The present writer does not disagree with that, but in the absence of a common opinion it behoves the editor of a new series to think out and to present to his readers his own philosophy and practice. And he would do well to draw a distinction between books or sets of papers which consist of carefully presented appraisals, or distillations of the state of the art, of a field or topic and those which are collections necessarily of both the wheat and chaff from the worldwide international conference circuits.

The range of papers on drying topics contained in these books is as wide as would be expected from their close relationship to the material presented at two successive full-scale international symposia. It is undoubtedly of benefit to the scientific and engineering community to have this work on record: they constitute a mine of information and each volume possesses a subject index. Some topics are likely to be of interest only to the specialist in the particular area, e.g. the topic of retention of aroma of food products, but others, such as the behaviour of droplets in spray drying, could be of interest to workers in quite different fields.

The papers in Book 1 (drawn mainly from the 1978 Symposium) are arranged under the following section headings: International Efforts in Drying R & D; Fundamental Studies in Drying; Drying of Granular Materials; Drying of Foodstuffs; Energy Aspects; Spray Drying; Drying of Continuous Sheets; Drying of Wood and Wood Products; Miscellaneous. Those in Book 3 (drawn from the 1980 Symposium) are arranged under the headings: Drying Theory and Fundamentals; Simulation Studies; Drying of Granular Materials; Drying of Foodstuffs and Grains; Drying of Pulp and Paper; Energy Aspects; Spray Drying; Drying of Coal; Solar Drying; Nonthermal Methods; General Topics. The chapters of Book 2 (all but one are 'Keynote' addresses from the 1978 Symposium) cover heat and mass transfer theory for drying processes, mathematical modelling and analysis of drying processes, some particular aspects of food drying, and a review of spray drying.

As we have said, a mine of information but, as with other mining products, screening of the material may prove necessary and this is left to the resources of the reader. In the words of the Editor, "the manuscripts appear... essentially in the form originally prepared by the authors".

J. R. SINGHAM