separate disciplines. Disciplines conceived and created to serve a world with quite different and now outdated priorities. Problem-serving research, and the problems related to natural disaster in developing countries in particular, cannot be undertaken in this way. The subject is at once multi-disciplinary, and it will be hastened towards inter-disciplinary understanding by this publication.

The importance of the Review section cannot be over-emphasised being a product of the author's belief in inter-disciplinary assessment of the social impact of technical advancement in less developed situations. The book would in fact have been improved by the placing of the Review at the commencement, thus helping to ensure its reading by all and every 'discipline' using the book.

The Bibliography was first produced in 1973, with the assistance of the Rowntree Trust, at a time when the emerging applied science of disasterology was far less formed than it is now. Many of the works it includes did not have the advantage of liaison, co-ordination or inter-disciplinary academic rigour that later works have had, and that future work will have as a result of this publication. It is unfortunate therefore that, in the opinion of this reviewer, some credibility is lost by the comparatively superfluous and often negatively critical "Abstractor's notes" on some entries which were often written some years previously. An annotated bibliography need not be a critical bibliography and it is difficult in a multi-disciplinary subject for one critic to possess the judgement for criticism as well as abstraction. Nevertheless, this is a small criticism of a colossal contribution to an all-round view of international and inter-disciplinary response to the problems caused by disaster in developing countries.

Since the book's first appearance three years ago disaster response in relief, preparedness and prevention has grown into an established and credible activity considerably assisted no doubt by works such as this. The growth of understanding of the subject and the development of issues within it in the next three years, it can now confidently be said, will grow likewise. Resources to combat the problems identified will only be made available as a result of wider understanding by those who control them. That understanding will be well served by publications such as this, as long as, from somewhere, resources will be made available for its continued up-dating and republication.

JAMES LEWIS

How to Dispose of Toxic Substances and Industrial Wastes by Philip W. Powers, Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, NJ, 1976, xiv + 497 pages, US $48.

The book is divided into two main sections. In the first part (190 pages) the methods available for pre-treating wastes are described together with a fairly extensive coverage of the methods most commonly used for ultimate disposal. The second, and larger portion of the book considers the hazardous wastes arising in 21 industrial sectors ranging from automobile production to wood

industry wastes. The longest chapters refer to the wastes of the Inorganic Chemicals industry (30 pages) and the Organic Chemicals industry (66 pages).

Among disposal methods, deep well disposal, incineration, and land and sea disposal, have individual chapters, with some of the newer or less widely practised methods being covered more briefly in one short chapter.

In the chapters dealing with the individual wastes from a particular industrial sector, a brief description is usually given of the processes producing the wastes followed by an alphabetic listing of the various wastes with a discussion of suggested treatment and disposal methods.

Clearly in a book of this size coverage of any individual waste stream and its treatment is, inevitably, often brief, but in most cases a reference is given to a more detailed paper in the literature. The literature covered by the author is almost entirely from the United States and leans heavily on US Patent specifications together with various US Government reports. It is perhaps, unfortunate that many — if not all — of these references to the patent literature are uncritical and often no comment is made on the process except to repeat the description and the main claims from the specification. Thus it is hard to separate the ideas from the practice as there is little information on the actual performance of the processes described. This concentration on the published literature gives an unbalanced view of the actual practices used, for the disposal of hazardous wastes. In most countries disposal to land remains the fate of most industrial waste (90% being so disposed in the UK), and the technologically advanced methods which take up much of the space in this book tend to be used only for a few intractable materials.

Nevertheless the book does provide a most useful and comprehensive compendium of concepts which can be considered for the disposal of some of the more hazardous wastes produced by industry. It is very up-to-date, containing literature references to the end of 1975. This is highly commendable.

That the coverage is almost exclusively of the US literature is of lesser importance but is a draw-back. The main disadvantages of the volume as a reference book lies in the absence of an index. The publishers have however produced good contents pages and the arrangement within the chapters is, in general, logical so that the lack of an index is less tiresome than it might be — but it remains an irritant.

Despite its rather high cost it is an invaluable book, and should be on the shelves of every waste disposal contractor, public official concerned with waste disposal and others who have an interest in the disposal of hazardous wastes. Indeed it could be read with profit by anyone involved in waste disposal.

E.E. FINNECY

Chemistry of Hazardous Materials by Eugene Meyer, Prentice—Hall Inc. Englewood Cliffs NY, 1976.

"Chemistry of Hazardous Materials" is a book intended to teach fire-