

discussion in any detail but is widely practiced. However, it is, of course, true that many texts exist on activated sludge processes and the exclusion of detailed discussion here is perhaps not important.

The section on incineration I found disappointing. This subject is worthy of an extensive section in its own right. Incineration of toxic waste is often recommended lightly, as if it were easy. It isn't easy; handling toxic materials prior to combustion needs care, combustion conditions must be chosen that will actually oxidise the waste completely without discharging unknown and perhaps harmful combustion products to the atmosphere. The 4 or 5 pages devoted to incineration here is not adequate, and in my opinion should either have been considerably expanded — or omitted altogether.

The book is to a very large extent based on US practice, and in particular much use is made of the USEPA's Development Guideline Documents for Effluent Standards for various industrial sectors. This will, I believe, to a slight extent, reduce its value to non-US readers, but the mass of valuable data presented far outweighs this small drawback.

However, I must reiterate my major criticism of this whole series of books, and this concerns the lack of an index. With many of the other books in the series the nuisance of not having an index was to some extent overcome by giving a comprehensive statement of the contents of the book. This text also has an extensive listing of its contents. Unfortunately this is almost entirely arranged by treatment method rather than by the substance to be treated, and comparatively few materials are specifically mentioned in the contents list. For example, the reader will have no clue that much of the extensive discussion on oxidation as a treatment method is supported by extensive, and interesting data relating to phenol oxidation by various reagents. No doubt the inclusion of an index would increase the price and also slow down the rapid rate of publication for which Noyes have an enviable reputation — this book for example includes references to 1977 literature — but I feel that the lack of an index in this particular volume is particularly unfortunate and must reduce the useability of this book which otherwise would, I believe, be read with profit by anyone involved in industrial waste treatment.

E.E. FINNECY

Erratum

Journal of Hazardous Materials, 2 (1977/78) 393.

The price of *Treatment of Industrial Effluents* should read £ 7.95, and not \$ 7.95.