

*Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards* (2nd Edition) by L. Bretherick, Butterworths, London, 1979, 1312 pages, £ 45.00.

It is pleasing to see this updated edition of what has now become a source of reference to the safety conscious laboratory worker. The greatest advance is a comprehensive alphabetical index which overcomes the main weakness of the first edition.

Over 7,000 chemical materials are now listed with extensive references to original source material. Abstracts are sufficient to provide an overview of the reactivity of a material sought and to indicate when experience has shown precautions should be taken. The book cannot, of course, be fully comprehensive since many hazards remain to be recognised and new materials are continually being developed, so the expected disclaimer that omission does not infer safety is welcome.

This edition should find a place on every experimentalists' shelf. If properly used the first edition should be sufficiently worn to need replacing anyway.

F.S. FEATES

*Hazards from Toxic Chemicals*, Proceedings of the Second Annual Conference on the Status of Predictive Tools in Application to Safety Evaluation, edited by M.A. Mehlman, R.E. Shapiro, M.F. Cranmer and M.J. Norvell, Pathotox Publishers Inc., Park Forest South, Illinois 60466, 1978, 223 pages, price \$ 25 (hard cover), \$ 22 (soft cover).

Sponsored by the U.S. National Center for Toxicological Research of the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. National Institutes of Health, these proceedings contain 17 full papers and seven abstracts of papers presented at the Conference cited above. The major papers are divided into four groups:

1. Those dealing with the scientific basis for the correlation between human and laboratory responses to carcinogens.
2. Subcellular approach to toxicological evaluation.
3. The role of information technology in predicting hazards from potentially toxic chemicals.
4. Teratologic testing.

With the pervading concern of the common citizen for cancer and the potential of its being caused by any one of numerous chemicals, and the beginning in the United States of implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act, this is a very timely book.

Since animal tests form the basis of determination of carcinogenicity, it is comforting to find the first paper by David Clayson of the Eppley Cancer Institute of Omaha, Nebr., critically analyzing the extensive data on cancer causa-