

to the well-established (“boxwood mallet on York stone”) practice and advances made with the wariness of a cock pheasant in October. A primary requirement must be to avoid propagation to other explosive holdings. One thing seems certain — no-one is going to reduce current safety standards, so the aim must be more economic approaches and a smaller number of workpeople exposed to hazard. The authors of the munitions papers collectively give a good perspective of the developing US scene which will be of interest to those organisations with similar requirements and in many ways is a good primer.

At \$32.00, an expensive curate’s egg.

F. MORGAN

*Hazardous and Toxic Effects of Industrial Chemicals*, Sittig, Marshall, Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, N. J. 07656, 1979, 460 pages, \$ 42.

The purpose of this book is to be a working guide to hazardous chemicals to give first warning signals to the industrial hygienist to allow him to assess the status of potentially dangerous substances. To accomplish the goal, 250 chemicals are listed alphabetically. For each (where available) the following information is given:

Description: derivative, chemical structure and systematic chemical name

Synonyms

Potential occupational exposures (i.e. industries in which used)

Permissible exposure times (threshold limit values)

Routes of entry (inhalation, skin contact, etc.)

Harmful effects (local, systemic, etc.)

Medical surveillance

Special tests (medical)

Personal protective methods

Bibliography (short list of references)

As intended, the book does provide a handy and concise compendium of industrial hygiene information. Just having all threshold limit values (TLV) for 250 chemicals in one guide is useful. To this, however, the author has added effects, medical surveillance, personnel protective methods, etc. However, two pages per chemical is not sufficient to discuss in depth a chemical’s health aspects, so the reader, after consulting this “first source” most likely will want to turn to the references which have been cited or one of the three major federal (US, EPA and NSOSH) reports used to compile the book.

Because Noyes uses advanced composition and production methods that enhance rapid publication of manuscripts, the material is thoroughly up-to-date with some 1978 reference citations; in this rapidly developing field, timeliness is of the essence.

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