

What the end of this tragic story will be, may not be known for many years yet, until the children who played with the "snowflakes" that came out of a summer sky have lived through the induction period of any possible long-term effect. The one heartening aspect I got from this book, and my personal peripheral involvement in the Seveso incident, is the evidence that the members of the scientific world are capable of great generosity of self when uncluttered by political and nationalistic ties.

D.F. LEE

Industrial Wastewater Cleanup: Recent Developments, by A. Yehaskel, Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, N.J., 1979, \$39, 308 pages.

The U.S. patent literature, according to the author, is one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of literature in the world. To have access to it in an organized fashion, is most helpful for both the researcher and developer.

In the book, Yehaskel has abstracted the U.S. Patent literature presenting data for almost 300 patent grants (in the numerical range 4,001, 109 to 4,127, 483) in the period from January 1977 to January 1978.

Although the data are available through regular patent literature sources, this compilation presents in one book those patents dealing with industrial wastewater cleanup and provides the reader with quick access to the patents in the field. One of the goals of the book is to describe a number of technical possibilities which may open up profitable areas of research and development via technology transfer.

Because of advanced methods, Noyes was able to put the book out early in 1979, about a year after the last patent reviewed (Jan. 1978). The book is mechanically well executed — typesetting, diagrams and index (by patent number, inventor and company), and a table of contents by subject. However, there were some minor features of concern to the reviewer: Adsorbents and reverse osmosis were incorrectly categorized under solid-liquid separation processes with flocculation and coagulation. The index is a mix of categorical treatment processes (such as coagulation and sedimentation) and industrial processes, i.e. there is one chapter on water treatment in the pulp and paper industry with subcategories of specific treatment processes. I feel the processes used in the pulp and paper patents here ought to be categorized under the categorical processes and cross-indexed by industry if one wants industrial categories. Other concerns include: (1) use of non-technical description in the introduction by describing industries that "spew forth polluted or untreated water to our waterways and streams", (2) use of ppm rather than mg/l in certain cases, (3) errors in conversion (both in one patent): 50 gal/ft²-day is not equal in 8.5 l/m² day, nor can a formulation add up to 116.2%.