

Hazardous Chemicals Data Book. by G. Weiss (Ed.). Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, N.J., (November 1980), pp. 1188, \$64.

One of the most useful books for emergency spill response situations I have in my library is the U.S. Coast Guard's CHRIS (Chemical Hazard Response Information System) Hazardous Chemical Data Manual. For chemical emergencies, it yields easy-to-read, quick-to-find information on approximately 900 hazardous chemicals. The CHRIS Manual is, in my opinion, without equal as a source of information on: labels, chemical designation, manufacturers, shipping information, observable chemical features, reactivity and physical and chemical properties (molecular weight, heat of combustion, heat of solution, specific gravity, etc.), response to fire, human exposure, water pollution, health hazards and appropriate safety equipment, etc.

Noyes Data Corporation has reproduced the CHRIS data sheets (volume 1 of the CHRIS Manual) — these sheets contain the written information, as noted above. Noyes has not, however, reproduced the second section of the CHRIS Manual with plots of viscosity, heat capacity, etc. vs. temperature.

In a second, smaller section of the book, approximately 450 Materials Safety Data Sheets from "The Basis for Control of Toxic Chemicals", by Ketcham and Porter of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, have been provided. There is no perceptible overlap with the first section for these are lesser-known materials (the CHRIS Handbook treats the 900 most important commercial hazardous materials). Presented are data on: hazardous ingredients, physical data, fire and explosion hazards, health hazards, reactivity, spills or leak procedures, spill and protection equipment, etc.

In the two combined sections, the book has information on 1300 hazardous chemicals — a very valuable reference to have on one's shelf.

GARY F. BENNETT

Directory of Pollution Control Equipment Companies in Western Europe, 3rd Edition (1980) European Directories, Inter Company Comparisons Ltd., City Road, London. 588 pp, index and alphabetical lists. Price £30, soft cover.

The directory is an updated version of the last edition published in 1977. Information is contained on 6,000 firms from 17 European countries including the EEC, Scandinavia, the Iberian peninsula, Switzerland, Austria and Greece. The firms are listed alphabetically by country and each company entry gives the name, address, telephone and telex number, chief executive, some sales figures and a description of the product or services offered. Only a few companies have published their sales figures.

In the second part of the directory the companies are indexed by the services offered. There are five major headings: analysis and measurement equipment; control and treatment equipment; recovery and miscellaneous equipment; pollution control and consultancy services; and associations and institutes of pollution control. There are 51 subheadings listing individual items of equipment and services.

The title of the directory is misleading since it covers equipment manufacturers and consultancy service firms. The information on this latter category is not comprehensive since it is based mostly on the private sector but does include a few Government sponsored institutions. There is for example no information on any of the Water Authorities, the Water Council or any central government departments. Details are given however on the U.K. Water Research Centre, Warren Spring Laboratory, Shirley Institute and some Universities.

The guide is generally free from mistakes but is already unfortunately out of date. Some of the firms listed have stopped trading and there are a number of new but very active companies missing. Nevertheless the directory caters for an area not adequately covered by other handbooks and will be a valuable reference book for people seeking pollution control equipment, pollution control advice or information on firms providing pollution control services.

A.D. WHEATLEY

History of Accidents in the Explosives Industry, by G.S. Biasutti, obtainable from the author at Case Postale 312, 1800 VEVEY, Switzerland, price Swiss francs 62.00, including postage.

Dr. Biasutti has performed a useful service in collecting together in this book brief notes on all known explosions that have occurred during the manufacture of condensed phase explosives. A few incidents of particular interest occurring during storage, transport or use are included, as are some incidents involving materials such as peroxides which, though explosive, are not intended for use as explosives. The book covers the period from 1769 to June 1980. Naturally data on the earlier years are sparse but coverage seems thorough from 1870 onwards. About six hundred explosions are listed, the notes varying in length from a single line to half a page.

The book is an updated version of the French edition published in 1978. Unfortunately no references are given, apart from a mention of the classical work of Dunn and Robinson, so that readers who wish to know more do not know where to turn. Much of the information has been obtained from private communications, but references to published reports would have been useful.

The book is essentially a collection of information rather than a study of causes and the accounts are rather brief for the reader to make any analysis