Journal of Hazardous Materials, 5 (1982) 261—264
Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam — Printed in The Netherlands

Book Reviews

Chemical Hazards in the Workplace: Measurement and Control, by G. Choudhary (Ed.), American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1981, $43, 628 pp.

Thirty-eight papers that were presented in a symposium sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Chemical Health and Safety at the Second Chemical Congress of the North American Continent, held at the 180th ACS National Meeting in Las Vegas, in August 1980, have been collected and published in this book. The central theme of the papers is the monitoring and measurement of hazardous chemicals in the workplace; although this meant the enclosed industrial factory to the participants in the conference, the techniques discussed in the papers can be applied equally well by readers of the Journal to spills of hazardous chemicals and emissions from abandoned dump sites.

The 38 papers present both state-of-the-art and future directions of monitoring and measurement procedures for the occupational environment in five areas: (1) methodology, (2) monitoring and control, (3) special toxicants, (4) quality assurance and (5) new technologies. Specific paper topics include new analytical techniques and methods development, occupational environmental monitoring and control technology (including medical monitoring and analysis) and quality assurance and requirements of compliance statistics.

Of specific interest to those involved in safety at abandoned dump sites would be the following papers: (1) an infrared analysis method for the determination of hydrocarbons collected on charcoal tubes, (2) development of personal sampling and analytical methods for organochlorine compounds — including hexachlorocyclopentadiene, (3) specialized sorbents derivation and desorption techniques for the collection and determination of trace chemicals in the workplace atmosphere and (4) occupational exposure to polychlorinated dioxins and dibenzofurans. Additionally, there are several excellent general papers on industrial hygiene methods and techniques such as: (1) sampling and analytical methodology for workplace chemical hazards: state-of-the-art and future trends, (2) industrial hygiene logistics and (3) the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) action level: a closer look.

A final observation that, although unusual for a symposium volume, the book has an excellent index which adds a great deal to its utility.

GARY F. BENNETT